

FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



1 1/2

Sinister TALES

NO
45

WHAT'S...
HAPPENED
TO ME? I'M...
SHRINKING!

YOU'VE READ STRANGE
STORIES BEFORE
NOW READ THE
STRANGEST! IN THIS
ISSUE...
"The IVORY CURSE!"



Osamu
Takahashi

BIG JIM MAITLAND WAS A BULLY...AS BRUTAL AN IVORY HUNTER AS EVER CARRIED A GUN IN DARKEST AFRICA! BLESSED WITH A POWERFUL BODY AND TRIGGER-QUICK REFLEXES, HE FEARED NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST... BUT THERE WAS A THING HE CAME TO FEAR, THE THING WHICH WAS ONLY SPOKEN OF IN WHISPERS AS...

The IVORY CURSE!



FLYING FISH...THE SIZE OF SHARKS! EVERYTHING IN THIS SEA IS A THREAT TO MY LIFE! IF I LET GO OF THIS BOTTLE FOR ONE SECOND, I'M A GONER!

MAITLAND AND SIMPSON HAD BEEN PARTNERS A LONG TIME...



WE'LL DROP ANCHOR HERE! I DON'T THINK MANY TRADERS HAVE WORKED THIS PART OF AFRICA BEFORE!

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A BAD REPUTATION, WE WOULDN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO FIND NEW TRIBES TO WORK WITH!

STILL COMPLAINING? HAVEN'T MY METHODS MADE US BOTH A LOT OF DOUGH?

MAYBE SO, BUT EVERYWHERE WE GO YOU GET US INTO TROUBLE! ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF IT!



IT WAS A LONELY COAST OF AFRICA, RARELY VISITED BY WHITE MEN...

PLEASE, AS A FAVOR TO ME... TRY TO BE FRIENDLY WITH THE NATIVES! THERE AREN'T MANY NEW TERRITORIES FOR US...

SHUT UP! I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SAVAGES... THEY ONLY RESPECT FORCE!



ONE DAY LATER...

SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY BIG TRIBE! LET'S TRY TO GET OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

THERE'LL BE EASY PICKINGS HERE! THIS IS ELEPHANT COUNTRY... WE'RE GONNA BE ROLLING IN IVORY!



BEFORE THE THRONE OF THE KUWANI CHIEF THEY EXPLAINED THEIR WORK...

WE ASK ONLY PERMISSION TO HUNT THE BULL ELEPHANT! IN RETURN WE HAVE GIFTS FOR YOUR PEOPLE... COLORED STONES, BOLTS OF CLOTH...

I MUST CONSULT OUR TRIBAL GODS! WHEN THE SUN RISES AGAIN, I WILL SPEAK!



A DRUM OUTSIDE THE CHIEF'S HUT SOUNDED RHYTHMICALLY ALL THAT NIGHT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK HIS ANSWER WILL BE?

HE'LL SAY YES, OF COURSE... HE WANTS THOSE GIFTS! THIS IS ALL A LOT OF MUMBO-JUMBO, JUST TO IMPRESS HIS PEOPLE!



I DON'T KNOW, MAITLAND! I'VE HEARD STORIES... WEIRD TALES ABOUT THE POWER OF BLACK MAGIC...

BALONEY! I'M STRONGER THAN ANY MAGIC!



NEXT MORNING...

THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN! YOU MAY HUNT, IF YOU SLAY ONLY THE BULL ELEPHANT! BUT YOU MUST WAIT TILL MY PEOPLE RETURN FROM THE SHORE OF THE SEA! I HAVE SUMMONED THE TURTLES TO APPEAR!

SURE CHIEF, ANYTHING YOU SAY!



IT WAS ONLY A ONE-DAY TRIP TO THE COAST, BUT MAITLAND WAS FURIOUS...

WHAT'S ALL THIS MALARKY ABOUT SUMMONING TURTLES? I WANT TO START HUNTING!

TAKE IT EASY! WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON SOON ENOUGH!



ON THE WHITE CORAL BEACH, THEY WITNESSED A STRANGE RITE...



WHILE THE KUVANIS SLEPT, THE OLD MAN SAT RIGID THROUGH THE NIGHT...



MAITLAND SLEPT PAST THE SUNRISE NEXT DAY! SIMPSON'S AMAZED SHOUTS WOKE HIM...



ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE? EVER SEE SO MANY TURTLES IN YOUR LIFE?



MAITLAND WAS SILENT AND DEEPLY DISTURBED ON THE TREK BACK TO THE VILLAGE! FINALLY...



NEXT DAY, THE ELEPHANT HUNTING BEGAN! A LARGE HERD WAS QUICKLY FOUND...



HEEDLESS OF THE AGREEMENT, MAITLAND SHOT DOWN EVERYTHING IN SIGHT...





YOU DO VERY BAD THING, BWANA! CHIEF HAVE MUCH ANGER!

YOU ALL BETTER KEEP YOUR TRAPS SHUT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU! PLAY BALL WITH ME AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF NICE GIFTS!



YOU'RE AN IDIOT, MAITLAND! THE CHIEF'S SURE TO FIND OUT!

OH, YEAH? WE'LL JUST STASH THE SMALL TUSKS WHERE HE CAN'T SEE THEM! THESE SAVAGES WON'T TALK... THEY'RE SCARED OF ME!

FOR DAYS THE PITILESS SLAUGHTER WENT ON---



BEWARE, BWANA! BEWARE OF THE IVORY CURSE!

IVORY CURSE? WHAT'S THAT?

BAM!

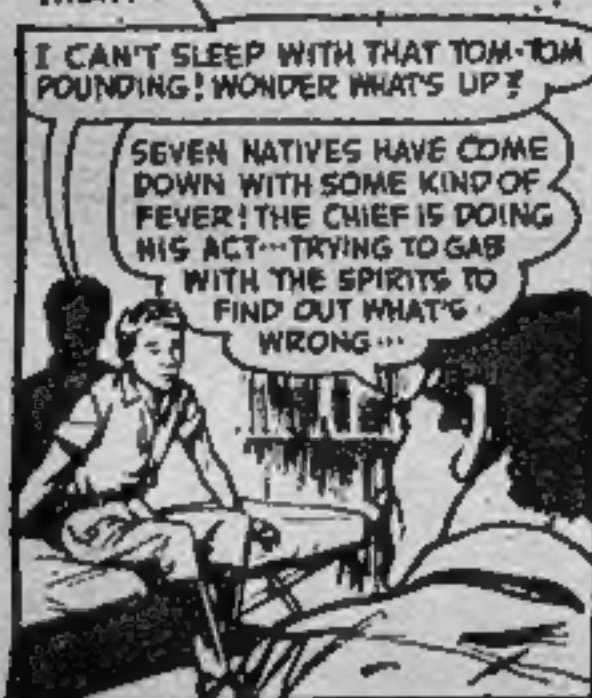
AT THE END OF EACH DAY'S HUNT, THE SMALL TUSKS WERE TAKEN TO A SECRET PLACE---



I DON'T LIKE THIS, MAITLAND! I KEEP HEARING THE NATIVES MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT AN IVORY CURSE! WHAT'S IT MEAN?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? IT'S JUST MORE OF THEIR SUPERSTITION!

WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE A DRUM WAS BEATING... AND IT BEAT FAR INTO THE NIGHT---



I CAN'T SLEEP WITH THAT TOM-TOM POUNDING! WONDER WHAT'S UP?

SEVEN NATIVES HAVE COME DOWN WITH SOME KIND OF FEVER! THE CHIEF IS DOING HIS ACT... TRYING TO GAB WITH THE SPIRITS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG...

MOMENTS LATER, THE CHIEF HIMSELF ENTERED THEIR HUT---

THE GODS HAVE TOLD ME THEY ARE ANGRY BECAUSE OF YOU! IN THE MORNING, YOU MUST BOTH GO... AND NEVER RETURN!

THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS! THE TIME HAS COME FOR A SHOW-DOWN!



WHAT DO YOU FIGURE ON DOING? WE CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE TRIBE!

WE WON'T HAVE TO! WHEN THEY COME FOR US, I'LL SCARE THE CHIEF! THAT'LL PROVE I'M STRONGER THAN HE IS... AND THE SAVAGES WILL OBEY ME!



SIMPSON PLEADED WITH HIM ALL NIGHT, TO NO AVAL--

AS HE RAISED HIS GUN--

TAKE HIS TOY AWAY!

DON'T DO IT, PLEASE!
YOU'LL GET US BOTH
IN TROUBLE!

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
SHUT UP AND FOLLOW
ORDERS! I'M IN
CHARGE!

I'M THROUGH FOOLING
AROUND, CHIEF! WHAT
THE--! THE GUN'S
MELTING!



IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HE COULDN'T HAVE
DONE IT!

BANISHMENT SHALL
NOW BE ONLY PART OF
YOUR PUNISHMENT! I
CALL DOWN THE HORRY
CURSE ON YOU! NOW
GO--AT ONCE!

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THEY LET US GO! I THOUGHT
WE WERE GONERS FOR
SURE! SOMETHING MUST
HAVE GONE WRONG WITH
MY GUN!

SOMETHING'S PLENTY
WRONG--ALL AROUND!
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY
THE HORRY CURSE?
WHAT'S GOING TO
HAPPEN?



AT TOP SPEED THEY HURRIED
TOWARD THE COAST, FEARFUL
THAT THE NATIVES MIGHT YET
TRY TO OVERTAKE THEM!
SUDDENLY--

THEY WERE LESS THAN SIX HOURS
FROM THE COAST WHEN--

WITHIN SECONDS, THE CHANGE
BECAME EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED!
MAITLAND SEEMED TO HAVE SHRUNK
IN SIZE, AND NOW--THE PROCESS
SPEEDED UP!

OH--MY MY
MUSCLES--THEY
PAIN SOMETHING
AWFUL! THEY'RE
ALL CRAMPED!

PROBABLY JUST
CHARLEY HORSE
FROM ALL THIS
RUNNING! COME
ON, WE DON'T
DARE STOP
NOW!

IF NO--I--I MUST BE
DREAMING! SIMPSON,
LOOK AT ME! I'M
MORE THAN A HEAD
SHORTER THAN
YOU!

WHAT IN
THE--I
YOU--YOU'RE
RIGHT! BUT
THAT'S NOT
POSS--

WH--WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO ME? OH, NO! THIS
IS SOME HORRIBLE
NIGHTMARE!

GREAT
GUNG! HE'S
SHRIVELING!





FOR SEVERAL MINUTES MAITLAND WAS
UNABLE TO STAND UP! THEN HIS
STRENGTH RETURNED--BUT THE
ORDEAL LEFT HIM SHAKEN AND
TREMBLING...

OVERCOME WITH FEAR AND DREAD,
THEY STUMBLED ON TOWARD THE
COAST...

EASY, YOU FOOL!
YOU'RE BREAKING
MY RIBS!

SORRY! I--
I DIDN'T
REALIZE
HOW FRAGILE
YOU ARE!

THE IVORY CURSE--THIS IS WHAT
IT MUST BE! WE'VE GOT TO GO
BACK--BEG THE
CHIEF TO RELENT!

NO! THEY'D
EXECUTE US ON
SIGHT! WE'VE GOT
TO GET TO CIVILI-
ZATION FAST--
MODERN DOCTORS
WILL KNOW HOW
TO HANDLE
THIS!

I--I CAN'T KEEP
UP WITH YOU! IT'D
TAKE ME DAYS TO
MAKE THE SAME
TRIP YOU CAN
DO IN A FEW
HOURS!

I'LL CARRY YOU!
I CAN SLIP YOU
INTO MY POCKET!



MAYBE THE CURSE WILL
ONLY LAST FOR A SHORT
TIME! HOW DO YOU
FEEL?

HOW DO YOU THINK?
DO YOU HAVE TO BOUNCE
SO MUCH WHEN YOU
RUN? YOU'RE SHAKING
ME SILLY!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

THE BOAT REALLY NEEDS
TWO MEN TO HANDLE IT!
IT'LL BE ROUGH SAILING
HER TO CAPETOWN
ALONE!

HE'S COMPLAINING!
IF ONLY I COULD
BUST HIM ONE
IN THE JAW!



IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, MAITLAND NEARLY WENT BERSERK! THE ENORMITY OF FAMILIAR OBJECTS FRUSTRATED HIM BEYOND ENDURANCE...



GETTING UP STAIRS IS LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING!

HOW AM I GOING TO CUT THE STEAK SMALL ENOUGH TO EAT?

I'M DYING FOR A SMOKE, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

ABLE TO SLEEP FOR ONLY SHORT STRETCHES, SIMPSON WAS GROGGY WHEN THE STORM HIT...



THE WHEEL IS PULLING OUT OF MY HAND! MY STRENGTH'S ALMOST GONE!

HOLD IT STEADY, YOU SAP! YOU WANT TO GET US BOTH DROWNED?

SUDDENLY, A WAVE WASHED OVER THE DECK...



RIEEE! HELP! SAVE ME!

GREAT GUN! HE'S BEING SWEEPED OVERBOARD!

THE LITTLE MAN WAS SWIFTLY CARRIED AWAY! HIS SMALL VOICE BARELY CARRIED IN THE HOWLING WIND...



THROW ME A LIFE PRESERVER...A BOTTLE...ANYTHING! QUICK, I'M...

HOLD ON! GRAB!

MAITLAND'S SMALL HANDS WERE UNABLE TO GRASP THE SMOOTH LIFE PRESERVER, WHICH LOOMED MONSTROUSLY LARGE! IT WAS THE BOTTLE WHICH SAVED HIM...

SIMPSON CAN'T MANEUVER THE BOAT TOWARD ME IN THIS STORM—I'M BEING CARRIED FURTHER AWAY! MY ARMS ARE TIRED ALREADY—HOW LONG CAN I HANG ON?



THROUGH ALL OF THE HARROWING NIGHT HE CLUNG MUSCLES CRAMPING! IN THE MORNING THE SEA WAS CALM, BUT DANGERS LURKED EVERYWHERE...



THOSE FLYING FISH... THEY SEEM BIG AS SHARKS! I—I'M ABOUT PLAYED OUT...

HE WAS MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE WHEN THE BOAT APPEARED...



THANK HEAVENS I FOUND YOU! I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS!

G-GOOD OLD SIMPSON—I—I KNEW HE WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN...

IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, MAITLAND SPENT MUCH TIME LYING ON THE DECK IN THE SUN RECOVERING HIS STRENGTH AND HE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK...

I NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE UNDERDOG! ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN BIG AND STRONG, ALWAYS COULD PUSH SMALLER PEOPLE AROUND! THE SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW, AND...OH, NO! NO!



THE SEA GULL LOOMED LIKE A GIGANTIC PREHISTORIC BIRD! HIS SMALL, SCURRYING LEGS BARELY CARRIED HIM TO SAFETY...



IT ALMOST GOT ME! I... I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CHILDHOOD, MAITLAND WEPT! GREAT SOBES BROKE FROM HIM...

I... I'M BEING PUNISHED... AND I DESERVE IT! I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT EVIL ALL MY LIFE... AND NOW I'M DYING!



WITH CAPE TOWN IN SIGHT...

WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR THE MOMENT WE LAND! DON'T WORRY, JIM... THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING THEY CAN DO!



DOCTORS CAN'T HELP ME! I KNOW THAT NOW! ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY THAT THE CURSE BE LIFTED! I WANT YOU TO SMUGGLE ME INTO A HOTEL... NOBODY MUST KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!

IN THE CAPE TOWN HOTEL MAITLAND FELL INTO A FEVER! HIS EYES BURNED, HE RAVED...



PLEASE LET ME CALL A DOCTOR... YOU'RE BURNING UP!

NO! NO DOCTOR! AIEEE! CAN'T YOU SEE HIM? THERE HE IS! TAKE HIM AWAY!

SIMPSON COULD NOT SEE THE APPARITION WHICH HAD SUDDENLY APPEARED, BUT HE KNEW SOMETHING FANTASTIC WAS HAPPENING.



THE IVORY CURSE IS ABOUT TO BE LIFTED, SOONER THAN I HAD EXPECTED! REPENT, EVIL ONE... FOR ALL YOUR WRONGDOING!

YES, YES! I DO REPENT! I'M SORRY... SORRY FOR EVERYTHING!

AT THE INSTANT THE VISION VANISHED...



MERCIFUL HEAVENS! HE... HE'S GROWING BACK TO NORMAL SIZE! IT'S OVER! I'VE PAID FOR MY CRIMES! OHHH... IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING INSIDE ME IS EXPLODING!

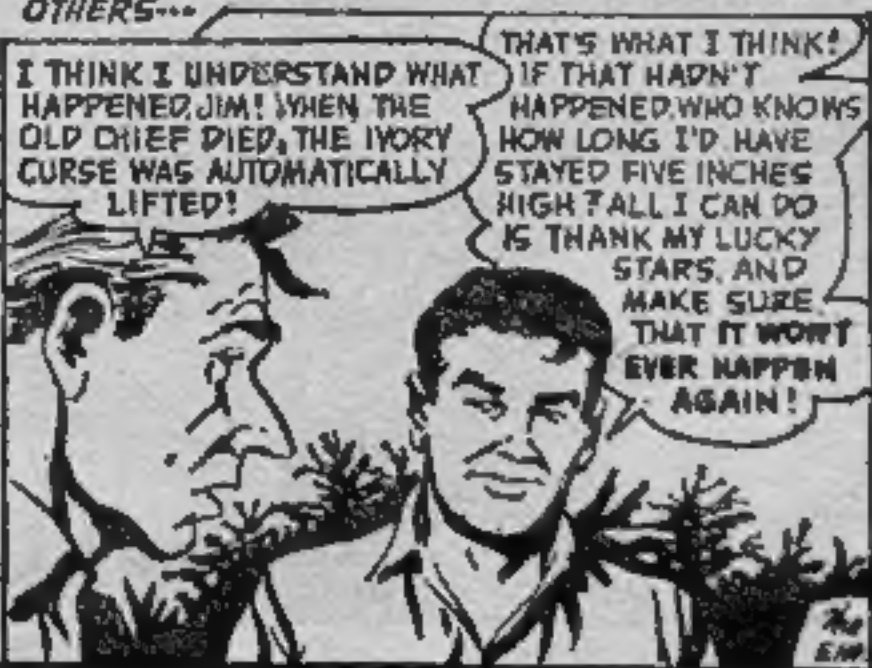
MAITLAND AND SIMPSON WENT BACK TO THEIR WORK, BUT THINGS WERE DIFFERENT NOW... FOR MAITLAND, WAS A CHANGED HUMAN BEING! ON THEIR TRAVELS THEY LEARNED SOME INTERESTING NEWS...

MAITLAND WAS STILL A FINE HUNTER, BUT NOW HE RESPECTED THE GAME LAWS, AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS...



YUP, I WAS IN KUWANI COUNTRY WHEN THE OLD CHIEF DIED! HE WAS SURE A GREAT MAN!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, JIM! WHEN THE OLD CHIEF DIED, THE IVORY CURSE WAS AUTOMATICALLY LIFTED!

THAT'S WHAT I THINK! IF THAT HADN'T HAPPENED, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG I'D HAVE STAYED FIVE INCHES HIGH? ALL I CAN DO IS THANK MY LUCKY STARS, AND MAKE SURE THAT IT WON'T EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!



YOU'VE READ SOME OF MY STORIES BEFORE, FANS... **PIERRE ALONZO**... BUT NEVER ONE LIKE **THIS!** IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC MARVELS UNCOVERED BY GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIMENTATION... AND THAT ONE TOP SECRET PROJECT THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A TENSE VENTURE INTO THE **UNKNOWN** ITSELF!

PROJECT T!

HE'S VANISHING... DISAPPEARING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

DON'T MISS THE ALL-AMAZING **"ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN"**

ART: ED. MORITZ

AS THE NEWLY-APPOINTED SECRETARY OF SCIENCE, PROFESSOR SAYERS WAS ALLOWED TO REVIEW THE NATION'S TOP SECRET EXPERIMENTS...

AND THIS IS OUR ANTI-GRAVITY PROJECT! ALREADY WE HAVE A DEVICE THAT CAN RISE A FEW INCHES OFF THE EARTH...

A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!

THERE WERE OTHER HUSH-HUSH SECRETS. OPERATION PANACEA, FOR INSTANCE...

WITH THIS DRUG THAT CAN CONQUER ANY KNOWN DISEASE, WE'VE KEPT THAT APE ALIVE THREE TIMES ITS NORMAL LIFE-SPAN!

WITH TODAY'S ADVANCED ANTI-BIOTICS AND DRUGS, IT HAD TO COME!

AS A SCIENTIST, NONE OF THESE REVOLUTIONARY CONCEPTS WAS STRANGE TO HIM...

"AND IN OUR INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-MATTER, WE HAVE UNLEASHED TITANIC FORCES. THAT BLOCK OF MASONRY IS BEING CHATTERED BY THE FORCE OF ONE ANTI-PROTON!"

A LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS!

BUT ONE PROJECT AROUSED THE SECRETARY'S IRE...

AND IN THIS LABORATORY, WE ARE CONDUCTING THE MOST FANTASTIC EXPERIMENT OF ALL... PROJECT 'T'!

PROJECT 'T'? MY DEAR FELLOW, BE MORE SPECIFIC.

DR. SAYERS, THOSE MEN ARE BUSY DESIGNING A TIME-TRAVEL MACHINE!

TIME-TRAVEL? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WHY, THE WHOLE IDEA IS PREPOSTEROUS AND UNSCIENTIFIC!

THOSE MEN--VERRON, CAWLEY SHAVIN... THREE OF OUR MOST PROMISING YOUNG PHYSICISTS, WASTING THEIR TIME ON THIS TIME-TRAVEL DRIVE!

ER... THIS WAY, DR. SAYERS... THERE ARE ANOTHER DOZEN PROJECTS FOR YOU TO VISIT!

IN THE BUSTLE OF THE INSPECTION TOUR, THE SECRETARY FORGOT HIS INDIGNATION...

OUR PARA-PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY. THESE MEN ARE EXPLORING THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN!

AH! I SEE! THEY'RE LEVITATING THAT BOOK BY SHEER WILL-POWER... I ALWAYS KNEW MANKIND WOULD DEVELOP TELEKINESIS!

IT WAS SOON AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE THAT DR. SAYERS RAN INTO DIFFICULTIES...

IT'S THE DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET, SIR! THE GOVERNMENT HAS CUT OUR APPROPRIATION BY \$4,000,000!

THAT'S BAD. IT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO ELIMINATE ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS.

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT BUDGET CUT IS JUST THE EXCUSE I NEED TO CANCEL PROJECT 'T'... THAT CHILDISH TIME-TRAVEL EXPERIMENT!





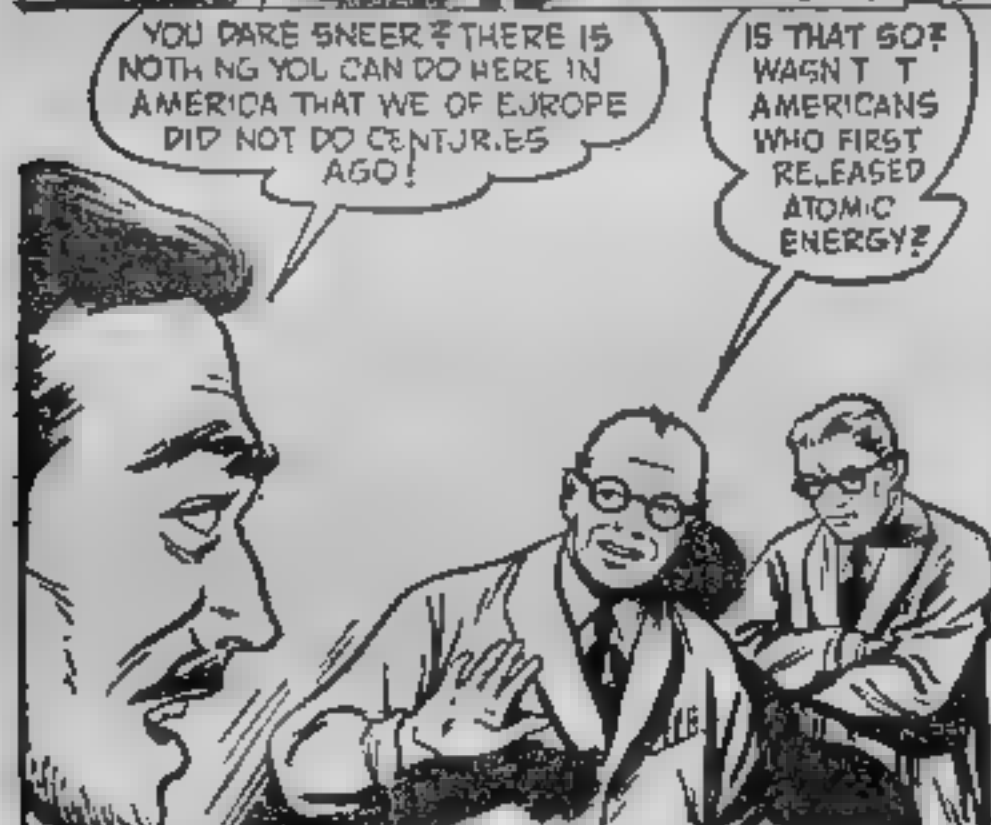
THAT DEVICE SHOULD HAVE MOVED EVERYTHING IN THIS LAB TEN MINUTES AHEAD OF TIME. I CHECKED THE FORMULAS ON THAT ELECTRONIC CALCULATOR MYSELF...

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, BAH! YOU USE THOSE CALCULATORS LIKE A CRUTCH!



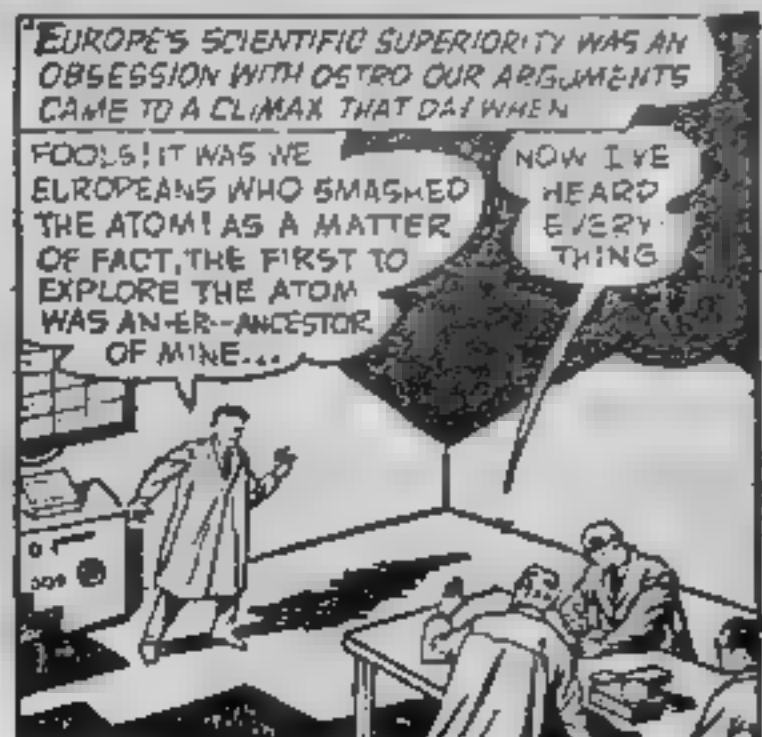
BACK ON THE CONTINENT, WE EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS USE OUR **BRAINS** TO DO OUR THINKING!

HERE WE GO AGAIN. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE US YOUR USUAL LECTURE ON THE SUPERIORITY OF EUROPEAN SCIENCE.



YOU DARE SNEER? THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO HERE IN AMERICA THAT WE OF EUROPE DID NOT DO CENTURIES AGO!

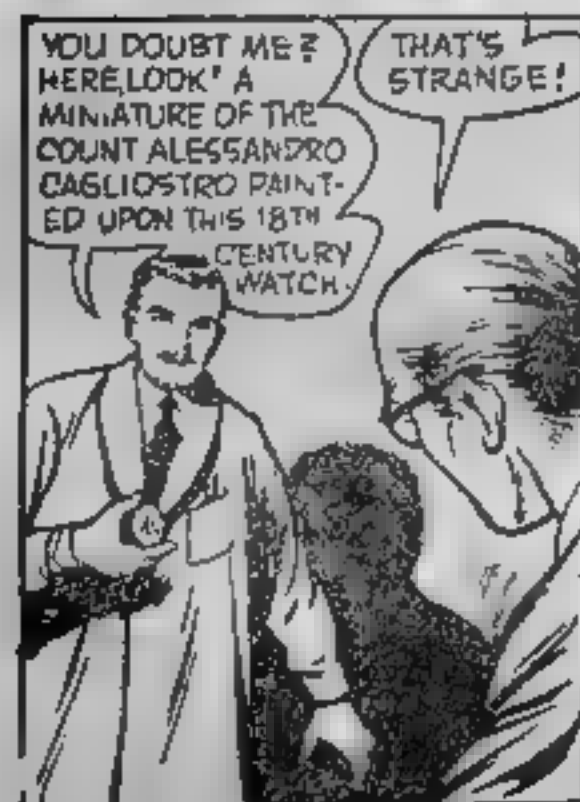
IS THAT SO? WAGN'T AMERICANS WHO FIRST RELEASED ATOMIC ENERGY?



EUROPE'S SCIENTIFIC SUPERIORITY WAS AN OBSESSION WITH OSTRO. OUR ARGUMENTS CAME TO A CLIMAX THAT DAY WHEN

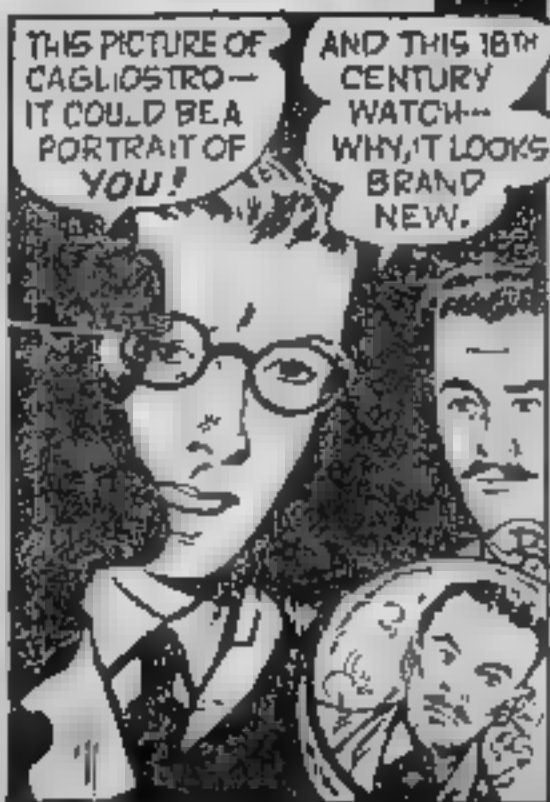
FOOLS! IT WAS WE EUROPEANS WHO SMASHED THE ATOM! AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE FIRST TO EXPLORE THE ATOM WAS AN-ER-ANCESTOR OF MINE...

NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING



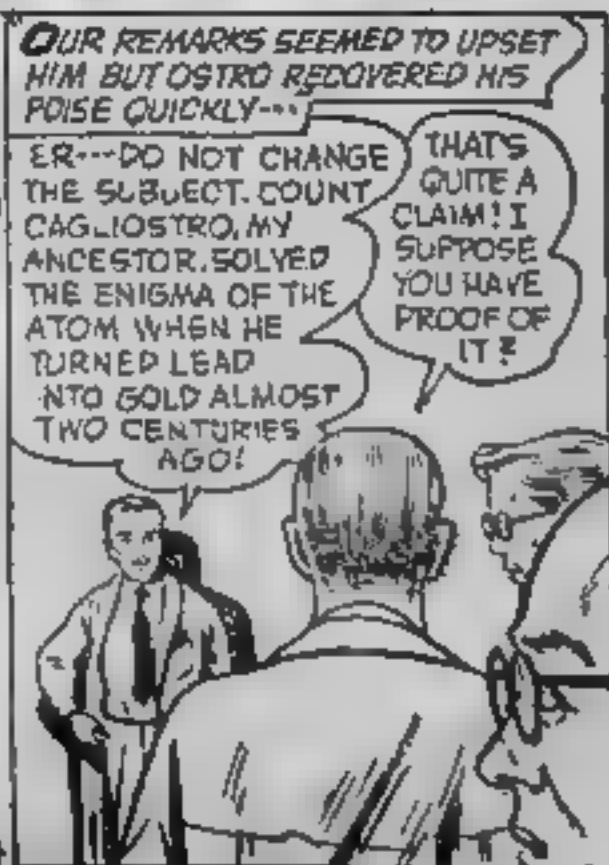
YOU DOUBT ME? HERE, LOOK! A MINATURE OF THE COUNT ALESSANDRO CAGLIOSTRO PAINTED UPON THIS 18TH CENTURY WATCH.

THAT'S STRANGE!



THIS PICTURE OF CAGLIOSTRO—IT COULD BE A PORTRAIT OF YOU!

AND THIS 18TH CENTURY WATCH—WHY, IT LOOKS BRAND NEW.



OUR REMARKS SEEMED TO UPSET HIM BUT OSTRO RECOVERED HIS POISE QUICKLY...

ER...DO NOT CHANGE THE SUBJECT. COUNT CAGLIOSTRO, MY ANCESTOR, SOLVED THE ENIGMA OF THE ATOM WHEN HE TURNED LEAD INTO GOLD ALMOST TWO CENTURIES AGO!

THAT'S QUITE A CLAIM! I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE PROOF OF IT?

YOU ASK FOR PROOF? WELL, HERE IT IS, THE S EGG OF GOLD TRANSMUTED FROM LEAD BEFORE THE ENTIRE ROYAL COURT OF FRANCE. IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE GOLD ALL RIGHT BUT AS FOR THE REST OF YOUR STORY... WE WEREN'T THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED!



AS OUR QUARRELS INTENSIFIED, OSTRO'S CONCEITED BOASTS ABOUT HIS ANCESTOR GREW GREATER

AND CENTURIES BEFORE YOU AMERICANS DREAMED OF ANTIBIOTICS, CAGLIOSTRO CURED INFECTIONS BY USING OINTMENTS MADE WITH MOLDS AND FUNGI!

YOU'VE GOT THE ANCESTOR ON THE BRAIN, OSTRO. YOU OUGHT TO SEE A PSYCHIATRIST.



BUT NOT EVEN RIDICULE COULD STOP HIS BOASTING NOW...

PSYCHIATRISTS, BAH! WHY, CAGLIOSTRO WAS CURING NEUROTIC PATIENTS BY MEANS OF HYPNOTISM AND PSYCHIATRY ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING!



IT WAS TOO MUCH. IN SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST OSTRO'S CONTEMPTUOUS DISDAIN, HE COUNTERATTACKED WITH MORE RIDICULE...

OSTRO, WE'VE JUST LOOKED UP YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA. ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, CAGLIOSTRO WAS A CHARLATAN AND A MOUNTAIN BANK!

HE WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE CLEVEREST HUMBUGS IN HISTORY.



HIS REACTION WAS MORE THAN WE HAD BARGAINED FOR. OSTRO ERUPTED IN FURY

SIMPLE-MINDED IMBECILES! YOU DARE INSULT THE GREAT CAGLIOSTRO... HE WHO IS THE GREATEST SCIENTIST IN THE WORLD TODAY?

CAREFUL, OSTRO, YOU'RE LETTING YOUR HAREBRAINED IDEAS GET THE BEST OF YOU.



IN THAT MOMENT OF FURY, OSTRO'S TONGUE HAD SLIPPED. HE TALKED AS IF CAGLIOSTRO WAS STILL ALIVE.

YOUR PARDON, GENTLEMEN. MY ANGER GOT THE BEST OF ME. BUT I STILL CLAIM MY ANCESTOR WAS THE GREATEST GENIUS THE HUMAN RACE EVER PRODUCED

YOU CAN PROVE THIS, OF COURSE?

PROOF? VERY WELL, VERRON, YOU SHALL HAVE IT! TAKE THIS TIME-MACHINE YOU ARE DESIGNING... FOR TWO YEARS WORKING AT IT, USING THE FINEST MINDS, THE MOST ADVANCED ELECTRONIC CALCULATORS...

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CLAIM CAGLIOSTRO INVENTED A TIME-TRAVELING MACHINE?





YES, IT IS TRUE, CAGLIOSTRO INVENTED A TIME-MACHINE BACK IN THE 18TH CENTURY!

HA, HA, HA! THAT'S RICH! THE FUNNIEST THING I EVER HEARD!



"IN THE FACE OF OUR HUMILIATING MOCKERY CAME GRIM DEFIANCE--"

VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN, I ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE. BE IN MY APARTMENT AT EIGHT TONIGHT. AND I WILL PROVE MY-- ER-- CAGLIOSTRO'S CLAIM THAT HE INVENTED A TIME-MACHINE.

IT'S A DEAL! WE'RE TAKING YOU UP ON IT!



THAT NIGHT, IN AN UNFASHIONABLE AND SHABBY SECTION OF TOWN--

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN. YOU ARE ON TIME!

OSTRO! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE COSTUME?



INSIDE THE APARTMENT WE STOOD AMAZED.

I ALWAYS DRESS THIS WAY WHILE IN MY APARTMENT. YOU SEE, I FEEL MUCH MORE AT HOME IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

THE PERIOD WHEN YOUR ANCESTOR CAGLIOSTRO FLOURISHED? I SEE!



OSTRO, ALL THIS ANCESTOR WORSHIP! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE CARRYING IT A LITTLE TOO FAR?

I UNDERSTAND YOU, VERRON. YOU THINK I AM MAD-- THAT I SUFFER THE DELUSIONS OF A MADMAN! WELL, I WILL SHOW YOU!



THERE YOU ARE, GENTLEMEN! CAGLIOSTRO'S TIME-TRAVEL MACHINE!

GOOD GRIEF! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! IS THIS FOR REAL?



COME NOW, OSTRO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL US THIS COLLECTION OF OLD IRON, NUTS AND BOLTS IS A TIME-MACHINE?

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO A LOT OF CONVINCING. HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WORKS?



I KNOW THE TIME-MACHINE WILL WORK BECAUSE I AM COUNT ALESSANDRO CAGLIOSTRO!

HA, HA, HA! THAT'S RICH! WHAT A PERFORMANCE!



ALL RIGHT OSTRO OR CAGLIOSTRO OR WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO CALL YOURSELF! LET'S GET THIS FARCE OVER WITH JUST NOW DOES YOUR SO CALLED TIME MACHINE WORK?

I COULD TELL YOU, BUT YOUR BOORISH, PREJUDICED, UNIMAGINATIVE BRAINS ARE NOT WORTHY TO RECEIVE THE KNOWLEDGE.



WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT. THE WHOLE THING'S A FAKE THE POOR DELUDED FELLOW IS A CHARLATAN, JUST LIKE HIS ANCESTOR.

IT'S PITIFUL!



PITIFUL, AM I? VERY WELL, I WILL PROVE THINGS TO YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL--SIMPLETONS THAT YOU ARE!

THE GUY TAKES HIMSELF SERIOUSLY. HEY HE'S REALLY STEPPING INSIDE THAT MACHINE.



THEN IN THE NEXT INSTANT--

HE'S PUSHING SOME KIND OF SWITCH...



AND NOW, GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS!



WHAT WE SAW THEN ENGULFED US IN A SEA OF PANIC!

LOOK! THE MACHINE AND OSTRO! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING--THEY'RE LOSING SHAPE!



HE'S VANISHING BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!--DISAPPEARING BACK INTO THE 18TH CENTURY!



OSTRO! COME BACK! WE BELIEVE YOU! WE BELIEVE!

AND THE ANSWER CAME -
ECHOING SARDONICALLY THROUGH
THE VAST CORRIDORS OF TIME...
COME BACK!
NEVER! NEVER!
WILL I RETURN
TO THE TWENTIETH
CENTURY... THE
CENTURY OF FOOLS!
FAREWELL!

IT'S
GONE!

VERRON'D D
IT REAL Y HAPPENT
PERHAPS IT WAS
ALL A VENOTIC
ILLUSION.

NO!
LOOK THERE!
CAGLIOSTRO'S
DIPLOMAS
ON THE WALLS

THEY'RE SHRIVELING
FALLING APART AS
THOUGH THEY'VE
SUDDENLY BECOME
HUNDREDS OF YEARS
OLD!

AND THOSE
DATES! THOSE
DOCUMENTS
WERE ISSUED
BACK IN THE
18TH CENTURY!

SO YOU SEE, SIR, THAT'S
WHY WE KNOW THAT TIME-
TRAVEL IS A POSSIBILITY.
WE'VE SEEN IT
DONE!

A MOST ENTERTAINING
STORY, GENTLEMEN BUT
SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT
ME TO BELIEVE SUCH A
FANTASTIC TALE WITHOUT
PROOF.

ONCE WE WERE SKEPTICAL TOO,
SIR. AND SO WE BROUGHT THE
PROOF OF OUR STORY... THESE
SCRAPS THAT WERE CAGLIOSTRO'S
DIPLOMAS...
AND THE GOLDEN EGG WE FOUND
IN THE ROOM WHERE
CAGLIOSTRO HAD
FORGOTTEN IT!

HMMM!

GENTLEMEN, I CAN'T
AFFORD TO BE A SKEPTIC
IN TIMES LIKE THESE.
PROJECT 'T' WILL
CONTINUE!

THANK YOU,
SIR. YOU WON'T
REGRET IT!

THAT WAS A YEAR AGO. NOW, IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS,
WORD HAS SPREAD ABOUT A SUDDEN SPEED-UP ON
PROJECT 'T'. HAS THERE BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH?
IS MAN ON THE VERGE OF DISCOVERING TIME-
TRAVEL?

SORRY! WE
CAN'T TELL YOU.
TOP SECRET.
YOU KNOW!



THE EDITOR ALWAYS SAYS "WHEN IT COMES TO BRAINSTORMS, JUST CALL **KURATO OSAKI**!" SO HE CALLED ME AND I BLEW UP **THIS** BRAINSTORM--ALL ABOUT A MONKEY THAT MONKEYED AROUND WITH THE WRONG FORCES AND A MAN WHO VANISHED CLEAN OUT OF SIGHT! THE RESULT: A BREATHLESS YARN THAT SHOULD BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY!



THERE GOES THAT **OSAKI**! BRAGGING AGAIN ABOUT WHAT A GREAT WRITER HE IS! BUT YOU'LL NOTICE THAT HE HELD OUT FOR **JOHN R.** TO DRAW HIS STORY! THAT'S ME, FOLKS -- **JOHN THE PICTURE MAN!**

THE MAN WHO WASN'T!



ONE AFTERNOON IN THE HOME LABORATORY OF YOUTHFUL SCIENTIST **MARTY COLLINS**...

BUT REALLY, MARTY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO YOUR RESEARCH HERE AT HOME! YOU NEED A MODERN LABORATORY WITH THE NEWEST EQUIPMENT, AND I'M SURE IF YOU'D APOLOGIZE TO UNCLE WALTER...

I COULDN'T, FOR SE WHEN YOUR UNCLE FIRED ME FROM HIS RESEARCH STAFF, I SAID I'D NEVER RETURN --AND I DO HAVE MY PRIDE!

BUT WORKING RIGHT HERE HAS PAID OFF. THIS TIME I'VE HIT ON SOMETHING REAL BIG! IT CAN MAKE ME FAMOUS! WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED!

OH, MARTY, IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL! WHAT IS IT?



WELL IT'S-- C'MON MUGGNS, GO FIND SOME OTHER PLACE TO PLAY! ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE AND IT'LL BE YOUR OWN DOING!



BEHOLD DORIS! IN ONE HAND I HOLD A CAN OF SPRAY PAINT CONTAINING MY SPECIAL FORMULA, AND IN THE OTHER I HAVE AN ORDINARY TEST TUBE! NOW **WATCH CAREFULLY!**



AS YOU SEE, I'M SPRAYING THE TUBE WITH THE SPECIAL FORMULA! NOW KEEP YOUR EYES ON THAT TUBE! DON'T TAKE THEM OFF IT FOR A SECOND!



RIGHT!

AND A SECOND LATER-- IT'S GONE! THE TUBE HAS **VANISHED!** BUT **HOW?**

IT HASN'T VANISHED, DORIS-- IT'S BEEN RENDERED INVISIBLE BY MY NEW **INVISIBLE PAINT!**



HERE, I'LL PROVE IT! LISTEN AS I BREAK THE INVISIBLE TUBE!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! I'M SO PROUD, DARLING!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT--

OH, DEAR, IT'S MY UNCLE WALTER! HE FORBODE MY SEEING YOU, AND HE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I AM HERE! HE'LL BE IN A TERRIBLE STATE!

LET HIM! FRANKLY, HE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME ANY MORE!



AND WHEN TYCOON WALTER P. COBB STORMED INTO THE HOUSE--

P-PLEASE, UNCLE, MY SEEING MARTY WAS STRICTLY BUSINESS! HE HAD SOMETHING NEW TO SHOW ME! SOMETHING HE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING!

I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT!



AND EVEN IF HE **DID** HAVE SOMETHING, WHICH I DON'T BELIEVE, I'D HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! WHY DON'T YOU OPEN YOUR EYES DORIS? LOOK AT THIS PLACE CLUTTERED WITH PET ANIMALS BIRDS AND WHAT NOT! HE'S A DABBLER, A NEER-DO-WELL WHO'LL NEVER MAKE HIS MARK!

IT'S NOT SO!

HE NEEDS THESE ANIMALS FOR HIS EXPERIMENTS, AND HE'S JUST DISCOVERED SOMETHING **WONDERFUL**! BUT WITH YOUR ATTITUDE I DON'T THINK MARTY SHOULD LET YOU HAVE IT!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW RELIEVED THAT MAKES ME! BUT LET'S NOT DISCUSS THIS ANY FURTHER! I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU WITH ME AND THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO!

BUT, PLEASE JIMLE... IF YOU'D ONLY LET MARTY DEMONSTRATE.

I SAID **NO** DOGS AND I MEANT IT! NOW BE A GOOD GIRL!

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IS THAT FOOL IDIOT OF A MONKEY UP TO? NO, MUGGINS! **NO!**

IT'S THE INVISIBLE PANT! STOP IT, MUGGINS! **DON'T!**

WHAT SCOUGH! KIND OF NONSENSE IS THIS? YOU GET THAT MONK TO SCOUGH! STOP, OR I'LL...

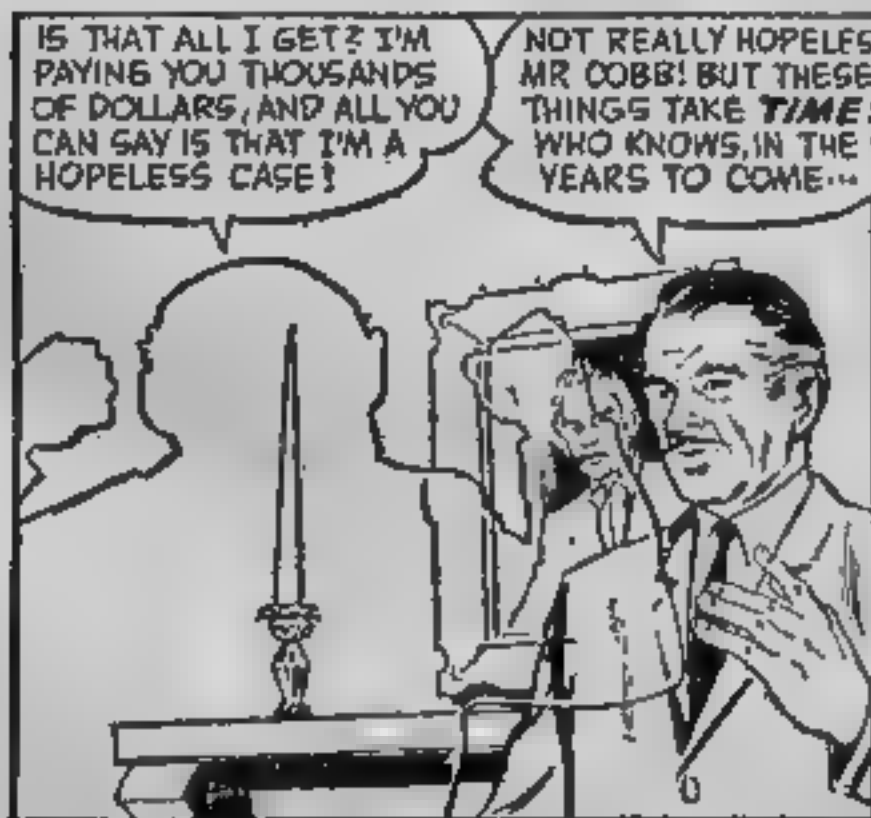
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I... I FEEL LIGHTEADED...

HE... HE'S **DISAPPEARING!**

I CAN'T SEE MYSELF! WHAT FOOL THING HAVE YOU DONE? YOU CHANGE ME BACK AS I WAS, AND I MEAN **FAST!**

PLEASE, MARTY! **HURRY!**

BUT I **CAN'T!** I -- I HAVEN'T WORKED OUT THAT PART YET!



AND IN MARTY'S HOME LABORATORY--

I'VE JUST ABOUT TRIED EVERYTHING, DORIS, BUT I'M GETTING NOWHERE! IT SEEMS I JUST CAN'T RESTORE ANYTHING MADE INVISIBLE BY MY FORMULA!

POOR UNCLE WALTER! HE'S CALLED IN EVERYONE, EVEN MYSTICS AND HYPNOTISTS, BUT THEY CAN'T DO A THING!

HE'S EVEN OFFERED A REWARD OF \$25,000 TO BE GIVEN TO ANYONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE HIM VISIBLE AGAIN!

HE'S DESPERATE-- HE'D NEVER OFFER THAT KIND OF MONEY IF HE WASN'T!



SUDDENLY--

OPEN UP! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

IT'S UNCLE WALTER!

I--I'VE JUST ABOUT TRIED EVERYTHING, SIR, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO HIT IT! THAT'S THE TRUTH, MR. COBB!

I WONDER!

ALL THIS MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED! AFTER ALL, WHEN I FIRED YOU, YOU MIGHT HAVE PLANNED TO GET EVEN--

...AND RIGHT NOW, YOU MIGHT DELIBERATELY BE HOLDING BACK ON FINDING A RESTORATIVE! IT COULD EVEN BE A CONSPIRACY! YOU COULD BE PLANNING TO RUN OFF WITH MY NIECE, OR TO GAIN CONTROL OF MY COMPANY!

MARTY ISN'T THAT KIND!

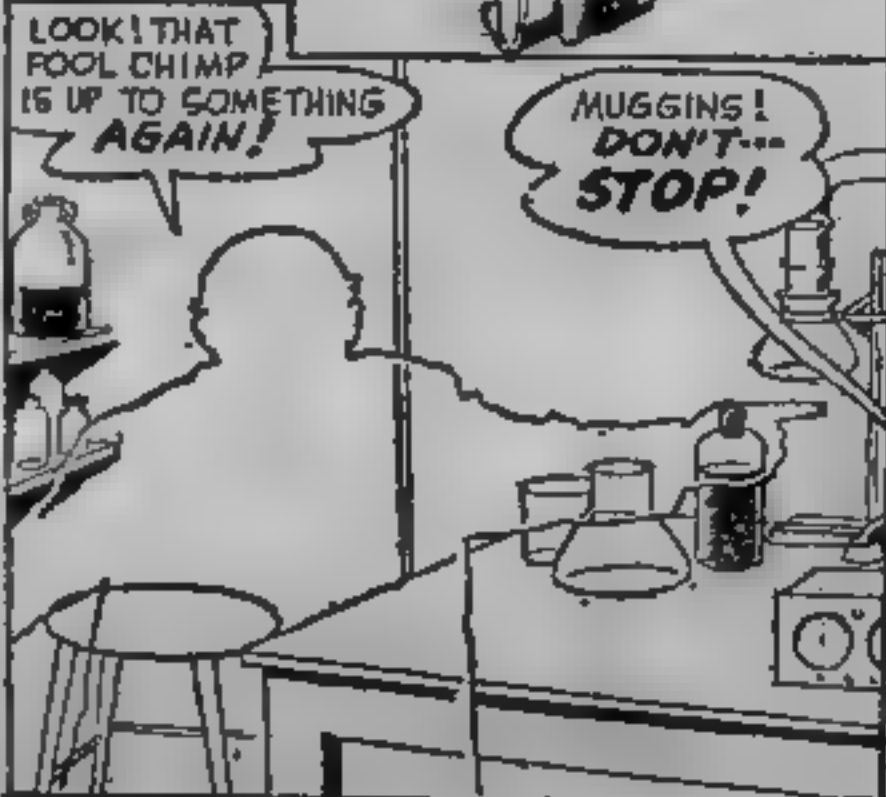


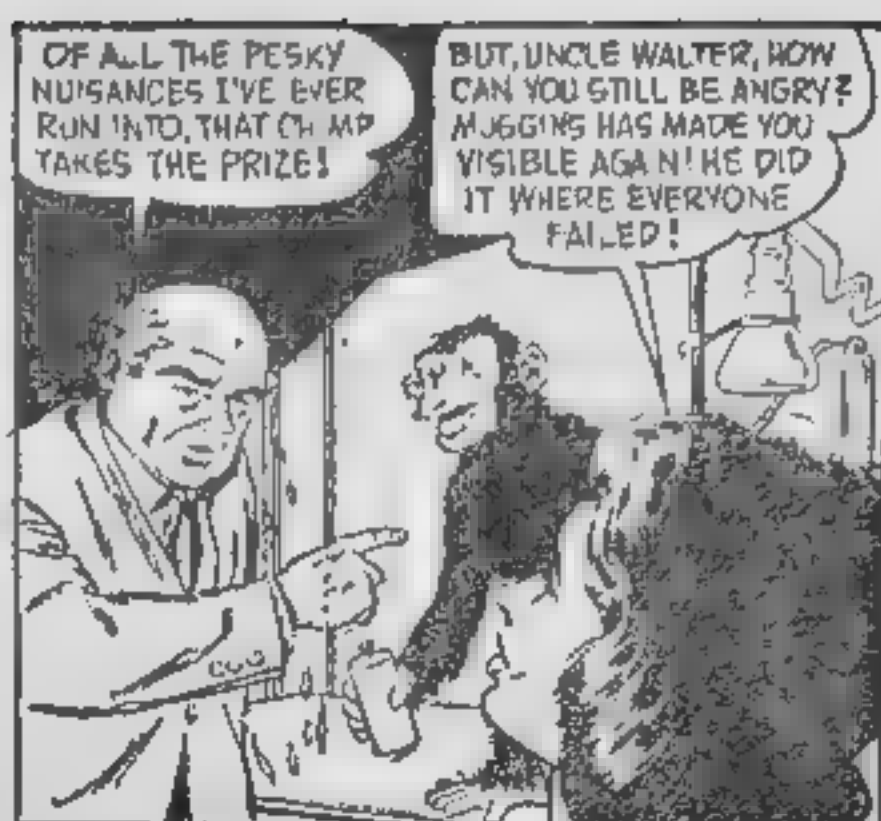
DON'T TELL ME--I'M ON TO THESE QUIET TYPES! I TELL YOU THIS WHOLE BUSINESS WAS RIGGED!

IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT--YOU SAW HOW IT HAPPENED! MY PET CHIMP PICKED UP THAT CAN WITH MY NEW FORMULA AND BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM, HE--

LOOK! THAT FOOL CHIMP IS UP TO SOMETHING AGAIN!

MUGGINS! DON'T-- STOP!





A FACTORY IS NO PLACE FOR A SPIRIT Y' D THINK. B T T C POWERS OF THE UNKNOWN ARE AMAZING. TO PROVE IT, STEP IN' AND MEET

The *GHOST* *in the* **WOODEN INDIAN PLANT!**



STORY: GREG OLIVETTI
ART: PAUL REINMAN

CLARION CENTER, KENTUCKY, WAS ONCE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS TOWN. THE REASON? ITS ONE ACTIVE INDUSTRY, THE **WOODEN INDIAN PLANT**—



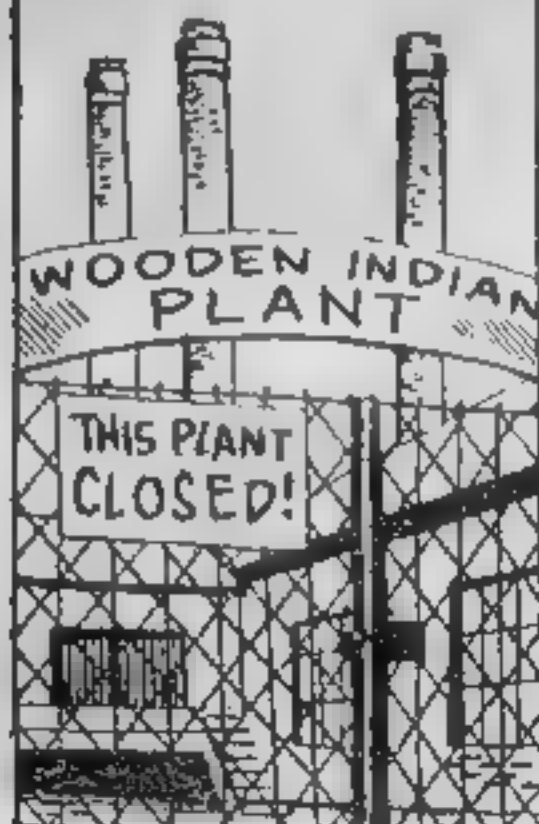
THE WORKERS ALL HAD GOOD, WELL-PAYING JOBS. NATURALLY, THEY WERE HAPPY—



BUT THEN, SOMETHING HAPPENED. THE VOGUE FOR WOODEN INDIANS FELL OFF—



AND SO THE PLANT CLOSED
...FOREVER, SEEMINGLY...



THE YEARS PASSED...AND
THEY WEREN'T GOOD TO
CLARION CENTER



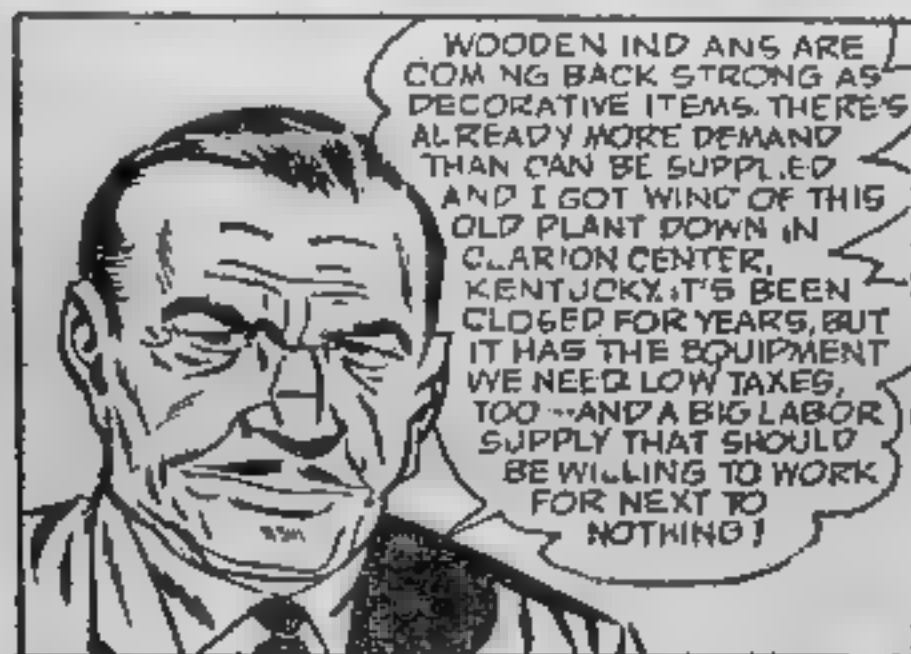
SO YOU'RE
ON RELIEF
TOO, HUH,
ED?

WHAT
ELSE?
THERE'S
JUST NO
WORK
AROUND
THESE
PARTS

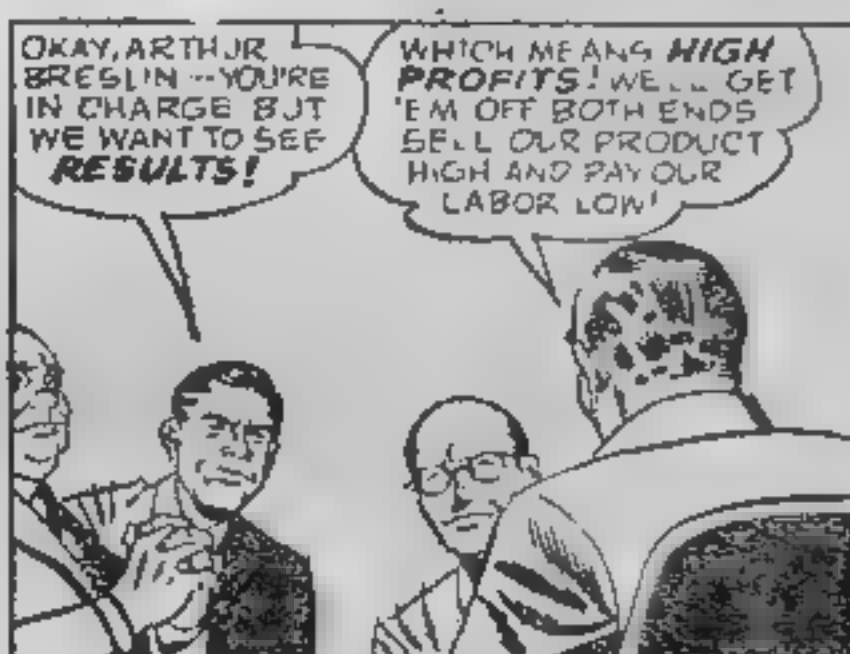
UNTIL...IN A LARGE MIDWESTERN CITY...

THIS SYNDICATE
HAS RAISED ALL THE
MONEY YOU ASKED
FOR, ARTHUR -- BECAUSE
WE KNOW YOUR
REPUTATION AS A
GOOD BUSINESS
MAN. BUT A
**WOODEN
INDIAN PLANT.**
FRANKLY, IT
SOUNDS
CRAZY!

MAYBE... IF I
YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN FOLLOW-
ING WHAT'S
BEEN HAPPEN-
ING IN INTERIOR
DECORATING
THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY,



WOODEN INDIANS ARE
COMING BACK STRONG AS
DECORATIVE ITEMS. THERE'S
ALREADY MORE DEMAND
THAN CAN BE SUPPLIED
AND I GOT WIND OF THIS
OLD PLANT DOWN IN
CLARION CENTER,
KENTUCKY. IT'S BEEN
CLOSED FOR YEARS, BUT
IT HAS THE EQUIPMENT
WE NEED. LOW TAXES,
TOO -- AND A BIG LABOR
SUPPLY THAT SHOULD
BE WILLING TO WORK
FOR NEXT TO
NOTHING!



OKAY, ARTHUR
BRESLIN -- YOU'RE
IN CHARGE BUT
WE WANT TO SEE
RESULTS!

WHICH MEANS **HIGH
PROFITS!** WE'LL GET
'EM OFF BOTH ENDS
SELL OUR PRODUCT
HIGH AND PAY OUR
LABOR LOW!

AN EMPLOYMENT OFFICE WAS OPENED AT
ONCE IN CLARION CENTER -- AND ITS
CITIZENS REACTED JOYFULLY --



NAME
PLEASE?

JOE LARKIN... AND
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW
HAPPY I AM TO GET BACK
TO WORK!

THE WHEELS AND GEARS OF THE OLD PLANT
SCREECHED INTO MOTION -- AND ONCE AGAIN,
THEY CAME FROM THE PRODUCTION LINE --



AND NOW THAT ARTHUR BRESLIN
HAD SECURED HIS LABOR FORCE
AND STARTED THINGS GOING WELL

A BIG CUT
LIKE THAT--
IT'S UNFAIR!

SURE, BUT NOW
THAT I'VE GOTTEN
USED TO GETTING
A REGULAR PAY-
CHECK AGAIN, I
HAVEN'T GOT
GUTS ENOUGH
TO QUIT!

EFFECTIVE NEXT
WEEK ALL WAGES
WILL BE CUT
25%

AND A FEW WEEKS LATER
ANNOUNCEMENT FROM
MR. BRESLIN! EFFECTIVE
AS OF NOW, WORKING
HOURS ARE INCREASED
BY TWO HOURS A DAY,
WITHOUT EXTRA
PAY!



WE CAN ALL SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING, AND THERE'S
NO END IN SIGHT. LOOK, PASS
THE WORD AROUND FOR A
WORKERS' MEETING
TOMORROW NIGHT
AT THE TOWN
HALL!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT --

YOU FELLAS ALL KNOW ME -- **JOE LARKIN!** I'M NO COMMIE, BUT A
GOOD AMERICAN LIKE ALL THE REST
OF YOU! BRESLIN'S TRYING TO MAKE
SLAVES OF US -- AND HE WILL
UNLESS WE **STRIKE!**

NO!
NO MATTER HOW
LITTLE WE'RE
GETTING, IT'S
BETTER THAN
NOTHING!



ARTHUR BRESLIN WAS NO FOOL. HE MAINTAINED
HIS LABOR SPIES --

THIS JOE LARKIN'S
TRYIN' TO WORK
THE MEN UP TO
A STRIKE!

LARKIN, EH? HMMM -- IF
I FIRED HIM, IT MIGHT BE
JUST THE ADDED FUEL
WHICH WOULD MAKE
THE WORKERS WALK OUT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM,
ALL RIGHT -- BUT IN
A DIFFERENT
WAY!



YOU MEAN MY JOB'S
SWITCHED -- I'VE GOT
TO TEND THIS OLD
BOILER? BUT IT'S
NOT BEEN USED IN
70 YEARS -- IT'S
UNSAFE!

SORRY, MR. BRESLIN'S
ORDERS YOU JUST BE
CAREFUL AND NOTHIN'LL
HAPPEN



HE WANTS ME TO GET UP
200 POUNDS PRESSURE.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS
OLD THING WILL TAKE
IT --





ONE THING YOU GOTTA ADMIT--MR BRESLIN PAID FOR EVERY CENT OF JOE'S FUNERAL HE MUST MEAN WELL, ANYWAY.

IT WAS WORTH IT TO GET RID OF HIM THE TROUBLEMAKER I HADN'T MEANT FOR HIM TO BE KILLED-- I THOUGHT HE'D JUST GET HURT-- BUT THIS WAY IT'S WORKED OUT EVEN BETTER!



IT'S NOT REVENGE I'M LOOKING FOR BUT IF I'M GOING TO HAVE MY LIFE MEAN SOMETHING I'VE JUST GOT TO HELP THEM--MY PEOPLE--



BUT HOW CAN I HELP THEM? I'VE BEEN A FAILURE ALL MY LIFE --A MAN WITHOUT POWER OF ANY KIND--



GULP! HOW'D I GET UP HERE WHAT'S K-KEEPING ME UP? I GET IT-- AS A SPIRIT, I POSSESS POWERS I NEVER HAD WHEN I WAS ALIVE. AND I'M GOING TO USE THEM!



THERE WAS REASON TO USE THEM AS THE WEEKS PASSED-- MORE REASON THAN EVER IN HOUSES ALL OVER THE TOWN -

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO SAD?

THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER WAGE CUT I I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO-- NONE OF US KNOWS WHAT TO DO



PLEASE, DADDY-- I'M HUNGRY--

HE'S DREAMING OF HIS PROBLEM. AND MAYBE THERE'S A WAY I CAN HELP HIM --THROUGH HIS DREAMS!

CANT YOU SEE THAT THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING? HE'S GOING TO KEEP ON AND ON, MAKING YOU WORK FOR STARVATION WAGES UNLESS YOU ORGANIZE AND WALK OUT!



AND IN OTHER HOMES THROUGH OUT THE TOWN YOU KNOW ME - I DIED FOR YOU! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? HAVE YOU GOT THE COURAGE TO BE A MAN... AND STRIKE?



NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



HE SAW... THE WHOLE TOWN SAW...



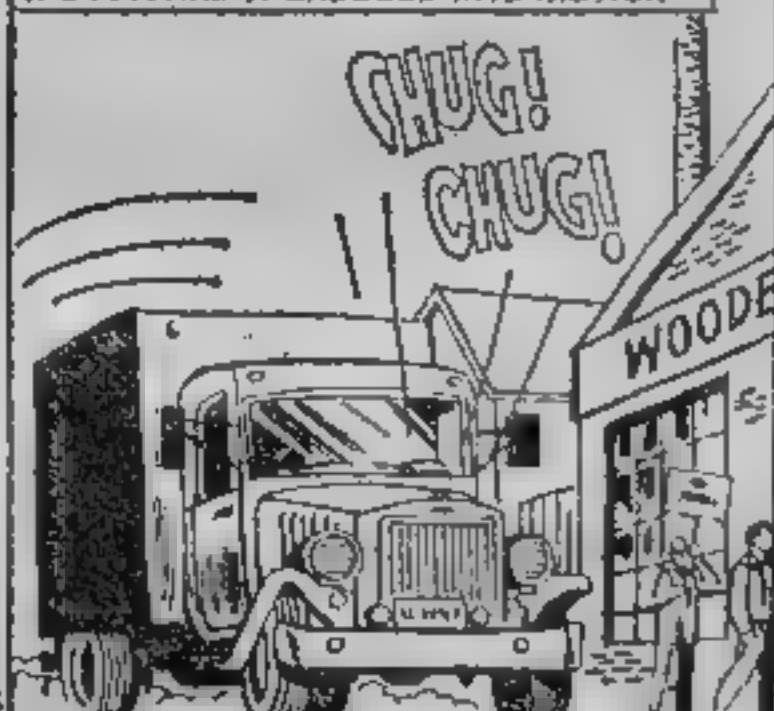
I'LL TEACH 'EM. THERE ARE PLENTY OF MEN WITHOUT JOBS IN THESE PARTS. WE'LL GET THEM IN AS STRIKEBREAKERS - AND I'LL HIRE ARMED GUARDS TO PROTECT THEM!



WHEN THE GUARDS ARRIVED...



THERE WAS NOBODY AT THE WHEEL OF THE TRUCK WHEN SOMETHING STARTED ITS MOTOR AND IT CHUGGED INTO MOTION--









WHAT GOOD ARE GUNS
AGAINST THINGS LIKE
THOSE? COME ON
...LET'S RUN FOR IT
WHILE WE'RE
STILL ALIVE!

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!



WHAT... WHAT
ARE YOU GONNA
DO, BOSS?

I'VE GOT POLITICAL
INFLUENCE--THE
GOVERNOR WILL BE
AFRAID TO REFUSE
ME. I'M GOING TO
APPEAL TO HIM FOR
TROOPS TO MAINTAIN
ORDER AND BREAK
UP THIS STRIKE
ONCE AND
FOR ALL!



I WOULDN'T
DO THAT IF I
WERE YOU,
BRESLIN!

IT'S YOU...JOE
LARKIN! WELL, GHOST
OR NO GHOST...LET'S
SEE YOU TRY TO
STOP ME!



WITH
PLEASURE...

GULP!



YEE-OWWW!
D-DON'T
DROP
ME!

THAT WOULD BE
TOO EASY. I'M
GOING TO TEACH
YOU A LESSON
YOU'LL NEVER
FORGET!



THE
UNKNOWN

THERE WERE BIG DOINGS IN THE UNKNOWN. A NEW SPIRIT WHO'D BEEN A MILLIONAIRE ON EARTH WAS ON TRIAL...

YOU ARE ACCUSED OF ROBBERING THE POOR TO ADD TO YOUR OWN WEALTH, SPIRIT!



IT IS EVEN CHARGED THAT HE STROVE TO BREAK THE SPIRITS OF HIS OWN WORKERS BY LOW WAGES AND STARVATION.

WHAT'S THE MATTER BRESLIN? CAN'T YOUR CRIMES BE FAMILIAR TO YOU?



IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS COURT THAT YOU ARE GUILTY--AND YOU ARE SENTENCED TO SPEND ETERNITY IN HADES! I MYSELF WILL ESCORT YOU THERE...



I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET BRESLIN WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW!



SO THIS IS THE NEW SPIRIT YOU'VE BROUGHT ME HERE... THIS WAY, IMP! THERE'S WORK FOR YOU!

WATCH THIS... IT MAY BE YOUR FUTURE FATE!



NO - SPARE ME! SPARE ME!

I...I CAN'T LOOK! PLEASE, TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL PLACE!





SITUATION IN SPACE

Some day our Spaceships will be landing at various places on Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and other planets in outer space. We will then have text books telling us about these planet. But at present what do we actually know about them? The Sun is not a planet but we will start with it first.

In astronomical terms, the Sun is a "main sequence" star of spectral type G-zero with a surface temperature of about 11,000° F. Although a medium-small star, it is over a thousand times as massive as Jupiter. And over 300,000 times as massive as the Earth. It's energy output, as light and heat, is extremely constant, probably varying no more than about 0.5 percent from the average value. However it is much more variable in its production of ultraviolet radiation, radio waves, and charged particles. At infrequent intervals, extremely intense solar outbursts of charged particles have been observed. The most recent of these outbursts, which occurred on February 23, 1956, and lasted about 18 hours, resulted in a peak intensity of ionizing radiation above the atmosphere estimated at about 1,000 times the normal value. All usable forms of energy on the Earth's surface, with the exception of atomic and thermonuclear energy, are directly or indirectly due to the storing or conversion of energy received from the Sun.

The planet closest to the Sun, Mercury, is difficult to observe because of its proximity to that body. Hence, our knowledge of its physical characteristics is less accurate than for some of the other members of the solar system. Mercury has no moon and its mass is not known with precision. But is of the order of one-twentieth that of the Earth. This much is known, however: It is a small rocky sphere, about half again as large as the Earth's moon. And it always keeps the same side turned toward the Sun. The sunlit half is thus extremely hot. Probably having maximum surface temperatures as high 750° F. While the side in perpetual darkness is extremely cold. Cold enough to retain frozen

gases with temperatures approaching absolute zero. Mercury is not known to have any atmosphere. Nor would a permanent gaseous envelope be expected to occur under the conditions existing on the planet. Its rocky surface is probably somewhat similar to that of our Moon.

Even less is known with confidence about the surface conditions on Venus. Therefore, many statements about it are necessarily more speculative than definitive. In dimensions and mass it is slightly smaller than the Earth. But no astronomer has ever seen its solid surface. Since its dense and turbulent atmosphere, containing white particles in suspension, is opaque to light of all wavelengths. Neither free oxygen nor water vapor has been detected on Venus. But carbon dioxide is abundant in its atmosphere, as determined by spectrographic analysis of the light reflected from the upper reaches of its visible cloud deck. On the basis of all the available evidence, it may be presumed that the surface of Venus is probably hot, dry, dusty, windy and dark beneath a continuous duststorm, that the atmospheric pressure is probably several times the normal barometric pressure at the surface of the Earth, and that carbon dioxide is probably the major atmospheric gas, with nitrogen and argon also present as minor constituents.

Much more complete information is available about Mars. But many questions about surface conditions still remain unanswered. With a diameter halfway between that of the Moon and the Earth, and a rate of revolution and inclination of Equator to orbital plane closely similar to those of Earth, it has an appreciable atmosphere and its surface markings exhibit season changes in coloration. Its wide polar caps, appearing in winter and vanishing in summer, are apparently thin layers of frozen water of the order of fractions of an inch to several inches in thickness.

The atmospheric pressure at the surface has been estimated at 8 to 12 percent of Earth sea-level normal. And the atmosphere is believed

so consist largely of nitrogen. No free oxygen has been detected in its atmosphere. Nothing definite is known about the presence or absence of marked differences in the altitude of the terrain. The "climate" would be similar to that of a high desert on Earth to an exaggerated degree—about 11 miles high in fact, with noon temperatures in the Tropics reaching a maximum of perhaps 80° to 90° F. But falling rapidly during the evening to reach a minimum before dawn of the order of — 100° F. The interval between 2 successive approaches of Earth and Mars is slightly over 2 years. At the opposition, that is when the 2 planets lie in the same direction from the Sun, the approximate distance between Earth and Mars ranges from 35 million to 60 million miles.

Black and desertlike as Mars appears to be, with no free oxygen and little, if any, water, there is good evidence that some indigenous life forms may exist. The seasonal color change from green in spring to brown in autumn which suggests vegetation. Recently spectroscopic evidence suggests that organic molecules may be responsible for the Martian dark areas. Although human life could not survive without extensive local environmental modifications, the possibility of a self-sustaining colony is not ruled out.

When it comes to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, they have so many characteristics in common that they may well be treated together. They are all massive bodies of low density and large diameter. They all rotate rapidly. Because of their low densities and on the basis of spectral information they are all thought to have a "rock-in-a-snowball" structure. That is, a small dense rocky core surrounded by a thick shell of ice and covered by thousands of miles of compressed hydrogen and helium. Methane and ammonia are also known to be present as minor constituents.

Because of the low intensities of solar radiation at the distances of the giant planets, temperatures at the visible upper atmospheric surfaces range from — 200° to — 300° F. A number of the satellites of Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune are larger than the Earth's moon. And some may be as large as Mercury. Although reliable physical data on these satellites are lacking, it is possible that they might be somewhat more hospitable for space flight missions than the planets about which they orbit.

As for Pluto, almost nothing is known about this extreme member of the known solar system except its orbital characteristics and the fact that it is extremely cold, with a small radius and a mass about 80 percent that of the Earth.

The Moon is about 240,000 miles from the

Earth. And its diameter is about 2,160 miles, a bit more than one-fourth the diameter of the Earth. The mass of the Earth is about 81.5 times that of the Moon. The Moon has no appreciable atmosphere. And its surface is probably dry, dust-covered rock. On the basis of terrestrial experience it would be expected that this rocky surface is far from uniform in chemical composition and physical arrangement.

The face of the Moon is covered with many large craters, the origin of which is still a matter of debate. Mountains on the Moon are higher than those on Earth presumably because they are free from weathering. An astronomer recently reported observations of an erupting volcano on the Moon. Whether or not the observations actually support the stated interpretation has been questioned by some authorities. At present our goal is to place a man on the Moon — and get him back again to Earth alive.

In addition to the planets and their moons, there is a group of substantial bodies known as Asteroids in the solar system more or less concentrated in the region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. It is possible that these chunks of material may be the shattered remains of one or more planets. Most of the asteroids have dimensions of some miles. But quite a few are as much as 100 miles across. The largest, Ceres, is nearly 500 miles in mean diameter. Some Asteroids come within a few million miles of the Earth from time to time. Comets are very loose collections of orbital material that sweep into the inner regions of the solar system from space far beyond the orbit of Pluto. Some return periodically. But some never do. Their bodies consist of rarefied gases and dust. And their heads are thought to be frozen gases or "ices."

The Earth receives a large quantity of material from surrounding space in the upper atmosphere. But some reach the Earth's surface. These particles enter the Earth's atmosphere with velocities of 7 to 50 miles per second producing visible light streaks called meteors. Estimates of numbers, sizes, and speeds of incoming meteorites are based in part on optical observation of meteors and in part on radio-wave reflections from the ionization trails left by meteorites. Data about smaller particles are deduced from other effects, such as sky glow at twilight. The meteoritic content of other space regions is largely an open question, pending direct experimentation with space vehicles. But in the meanwhile you may have to wait some time before you can purchase your first ticket on a spaceship.

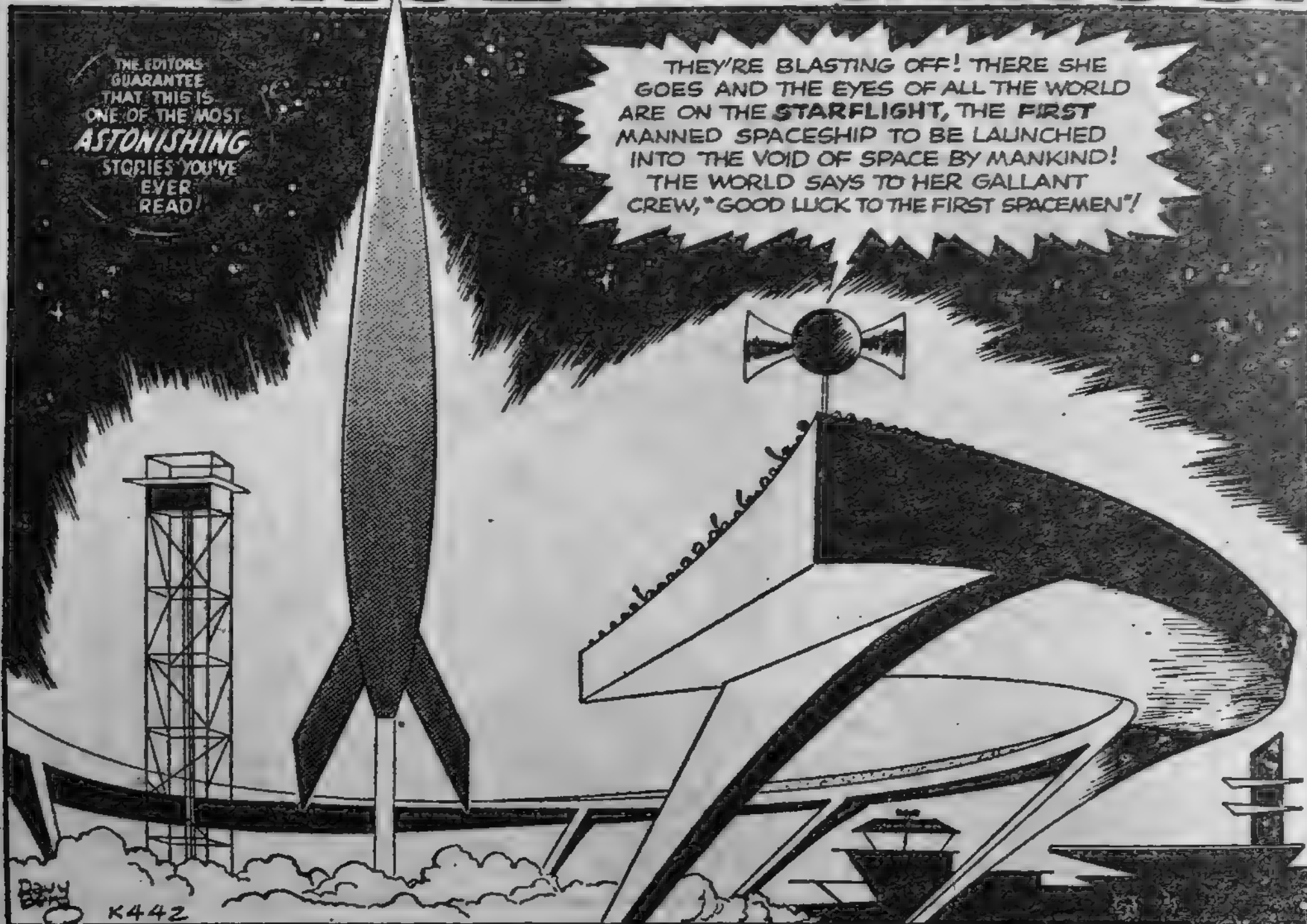
THE END

IT WAS AN HISTORIC OCCASION, THE GREAT SHIP **STARFLIGHT**, MAN'S CHALLENGE TO THE STARS, HAD LAUNCHED ITSELF INTO SPACE! BUT THIS IS NOT A STORY OF EARTH AND HER PEOPLE... IT IS THE STORY OF FIVE MEN, THE **STARFLIGHT**'S CREW, AND WHAT THEY MET OUT THERE IN THE VOID OF SPACE!

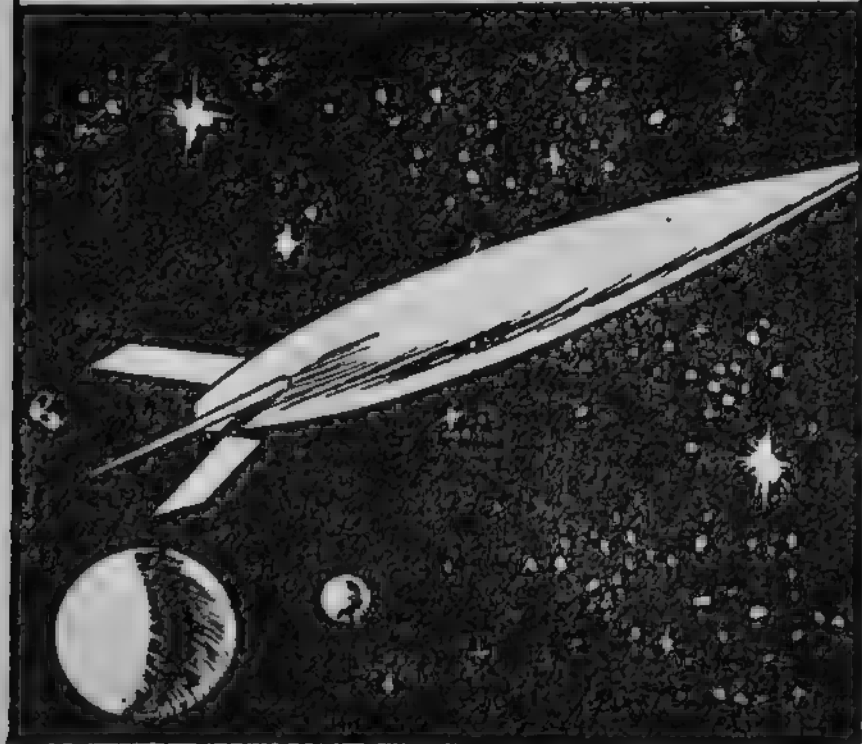
THE FACE IN THE GLASS!

THE EDITORS
GUARANTEE
THAT THIS IS
ONE OF THE MOST
ASTONISHING
STORIES YOU'VE
EVER
READ!

THEY'RE BLASTING OFF! THERE SHE GOES AND THE EYES OF ALL THE WORLD ARE ON THE **STARFLIGHT**, THE **FIRST** MANNED SPACESHIP TO BE LAUNCHED INTO THE VOID OF SPACE BY MANKIND! THE WORLD SAYS TO HER GALLANT CREW, "GOOD LUCK TO THE FIRST SPACEMEN!"



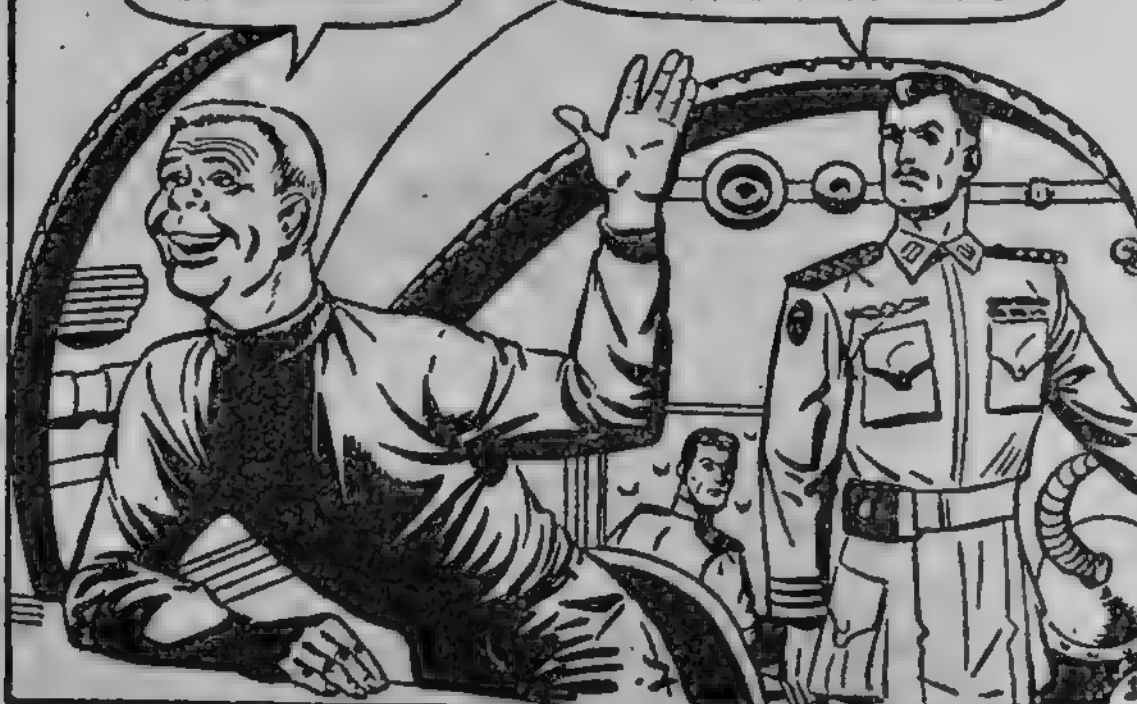
THE GREAT ATOMIC ENGINES WERE STRANGELY SILENT AS THEY HURLED THE **STARFLIGHT** AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED BEYOND THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND INTO THE UNKNOWN!



AND WITHIN THE SHIP, HER CREW WATCHED THE DWINDLING GREEN SPHERE THAT WAS EARTH...

LOOKS LIKE A MARBLE,
HUH? REMINDS ME
OF A JOKE...

BE QUIET, PETERS! THIS IS
A SOLEMN OCCASION... NOT
A TIME FOR JOKE!



EARTH VANISHED AND THEY WERE ALONE IN SPACE!

WELL, AS MY OLD GRANNY USED TO SAY...RECKON I'LL GRAB SOME SHUTEYE...TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY!

I THINK IT'S A SHAME THAT A MAN LIKE THAT SHOULD BE HERE! HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF PLACE!

IF ALSTON HADN'T GOTTEN SICK AT THE LAST MOMENT...HE WAS ONE OF US! A TRAINED MAN!

WE HAD TO HAVE A MAN WHO KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THE ENGINES, AND PETERS WAS THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE! WE'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIM! HE'LL OIL AND TEND THE MECHANICALS AND DO THE DIRTY WORK!



THIS WAS THE CREW OF THE STARFLIGHT, MEN WHO HAD DEDICATED YEARS OF THEIR LIVES TO THIS MOMENT! PICKED MEN, TECHNICALLY TRAINED FOR YEARS, FOR THIS CRUISE TO THE STARS! THERE WAS CAPTAIN TRACY WHO HELPED DESIGN THE SHIP...

WE'LL HOLD A TRUE COURSE FOR MARS, FORBES!



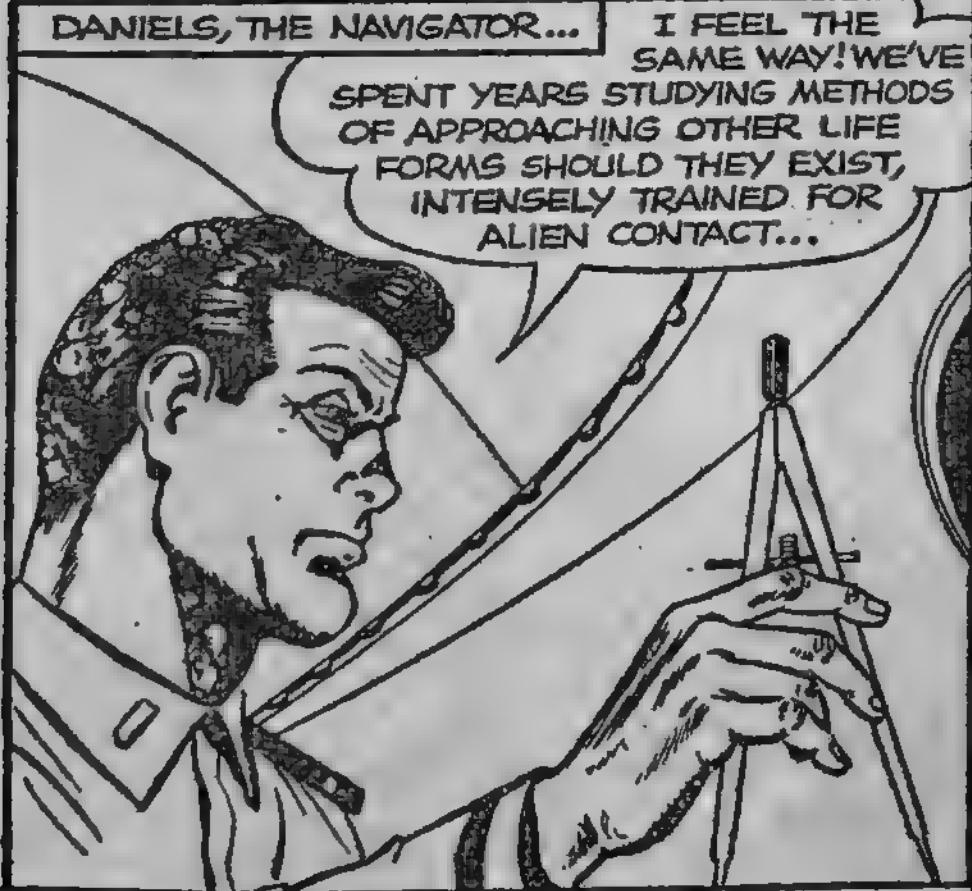
FORBES, THE ASTROGATOR...

YES, SIR! ABOUT PETERS, SIR... I'M AFRAID IF WE CONTACT AN ALIEN LIFE FORM, HE COULD MEAN TROUBLE... PERHAPS THE FAILURE OF THIS VOYAGE!



DANIELS, THE NAVIGATOR...

I FEEL THE SAME WAY! WE'VE SPENT YEARS STUDYING METHODS OF APPROACHING OTHER LIFE FORMS SHOULD THEY EXIST, INTENSELY TRAINED FOR ALIEN CONTACT...



GAZA, DOCTOR AND PSYCHIATRIST...

YES...TO BRIDGE THE GAP TO UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TWO ALIEN LIFE FORMS, TO FIND A COMMON DENOMINATOR OF APPROACH, MIGHT BE OUR GREATEST PROBLEM! PETERS IS A STUPID OAF, WHO WOULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THIS!



AND OF COURSE BILL PETERS, GREASE MONKEY, AN ORDINARY GUY WHO LIKED HIS FELLOW MEN AND LIVED WITH LAUGHTER IN HIS HEART!



THE FOOL! HIM AND HIS JOKES...

YOU CAN'T GET IT THROUGH HIS HEAD THAT THIS IS A GLORIOUS AND SERIOUS BUSINESS! I'M JUST ABOUT FED UP WITH HIS...



CAPTAIN! A SHIP APPROACHING...AN ALIEN SHIP!

A MOMENTOUS ANNOUNCEMENT! LIFE DID EXIST ON OTHER WORLDS AND THE PROOF WAS THE BLACK, MONSTER SHIP MOVING TOWARD THEM!

HALT THE MOTORS! DANIELS, ACTIVATE THE VISION GLASS AND TRY TO MAKE CONTACT!



HELLO! THIS IS THE STARFLIGHT FROM THE PLANET EARTH! DO YOU RECEIVE US? WHAT IS YOUR SHIP? WHAT PLANET DO YOU COME FROM? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND US?

THEY'RE COMING TO A HALT, TOO!



FOR HOURS THEY TRIED TO CONTACT THE ALIEN SHIP, BUT SEEMINGLY WITHOUT SUCCESS! THE BLACK SHIP LAY LIKE A SINISTER PROJECTILE IN THE VOID!

HELLO, NOW LISTEN... WE COME IN PEACE! WE WANT TO MAKE CONTACT!

IT SEEMS NO USE! IF WE ONLY KNEW WHAT KIND OF BEINGS THEY WERE...



AND SUDDENLY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE CAPTAIN'S WISH, THE VISION SCREEN GLOWED AND THE FACES OF THE ALIENS BECAME VISIBLE!

THOSE FACES...

FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I FELT HANDSOME!



TIME SLIPPED AWAY! THE CREW WAS EXHAUSTED, BUT STILL THERE WAS NO SOUND, NO COMMUNICATION FROM THE ALIEN SHIP!

I DON'T LIKE IT! I'M AFRAID THEY MIGHT AT ANY MOMENT DECIDE TO BLAST US OUT OF THE VOID! WE'LL HOLD A COUNCIL IN MY CABIN, GENTLEMEN!

IF THEY'D ONLY COMMUNICATE, SO WE CAN ANALYZE THEIR THOUGHT PATTERNS, FIND A COMMON DENOMINATOR...



THE TRAINED MEN RETIRED TO THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN, LEAVING BILL ALONE...

YOU ARE LAUGHING AT OUR APPEARANCE! YOU ARE STRANGE LOOKING TO US, TOO, EARTHMAN! WE MARTIANS ARE NOT A TRUSTING PEOPLE!

WELL, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, YOU DO TALK...AND OUR LANGUAGE!



WE HAVE BEEN DECIPHERING ALL THE WORDS YOU HAVE SENT TO US, TRANSLATING THEM, AND NOW HAVE A FAIR WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR LANGUAGE!

WELL, IF THAT DOESN'T BEAT ALL! SAY, THAT REMINDS ME OF A JOKE! DID YOU EVER HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE GUY FROM TEXAS WHO...



SO BILL, TAKING THINGS IN HIS STRIDE AS USUAL, TOLD HIS JOKE...

...SO SHE SAYS, "O.K., TEXAS; WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR... LET'S GO FISHING!" HA, HA, HA! I THINK THAT'S A PIP! HEY, DON'T YOU GET IT...OR CAN'T YOU GUYS LAUGH?

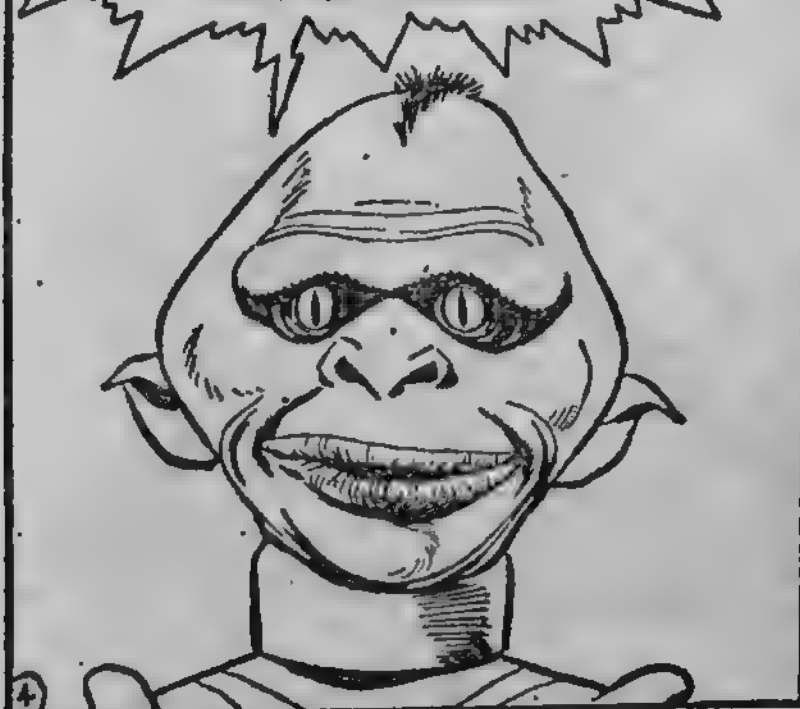


FOR A MOMENT, THE STRANGE FACE IN THE GLASS REMAINED FROZEN, PUZZLED! THEN...

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT PETERS ALONE IN HERE!



EARTHMEN, GREETINGS! WELCOME TO THE GALAXY! WE ARE COMING ALONGSIDE IN PEACE! WE ARE A SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE! WE DO NOT TRUST ALIENS WHO HAVE NOT HUMOR...



BILL, HOW DID YOU DO IT?

MOST PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE, OR WHERE THEY COME FROM, ARE THE SAME! THERE'S ONE THING THAT JOINS ALL PEOPLE...WHAT YOU FELLOWS CALL THE "COMMON DENOMINATOR"...AND THAT IS...LAUGHTER!



THE END

IT WAS JUST AN ANCIENT AND ABANDONED DWELLING-PLACE---BUT IT POSSESSED AN AMAZING AND MAGICAL POWER! SOLVE ITS MYSTERY FOR YOURSELF IN THE TENSE! THRILLING TALE OF---

The SORCERER'S COTTAGE!

STORY: ZEV ZIMMER
M.
ART: WALDINGER



THIS IS A STORY IN TWO PARTS. THE FIRST CONCERNS **RUDOLFO**, A SORCERER IN MEDIEVAL HUNGARY. HE WAS VERSED IN THE BLACK ARTS --- BUT USED THEM ONLY FOR GOOD---

DAY BY DAY MY MAGIC GROWS IN POWER. BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT IF IT CANNOT BRING ME LOVE?



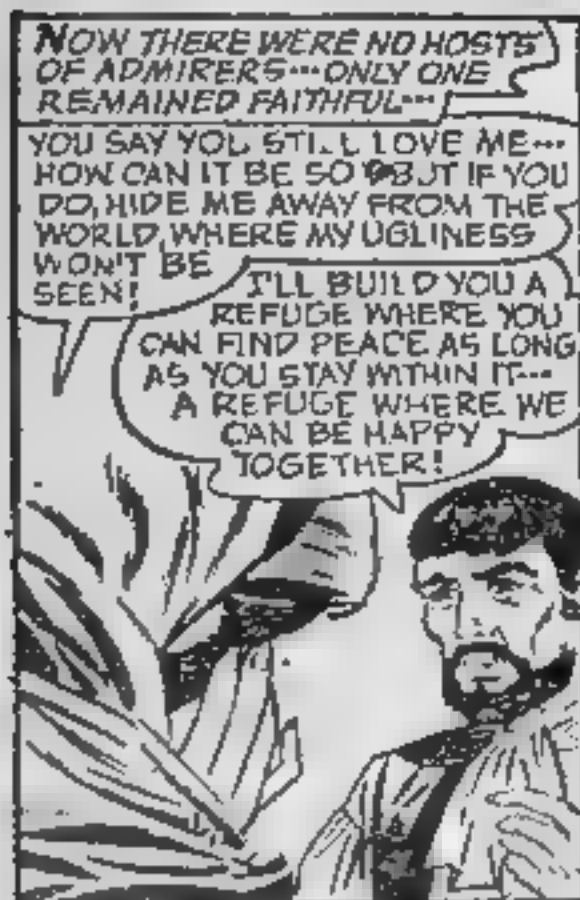
THE GIRL HE LOVED WAS **MAGDA**, FAIREST IN ALL THE TOWN. HER BEAUTY BROUGHT HER MANY ADMIRERS---

THERE'S NONE AS LOVELY AS YOU, MAGDA.



BUT THOSE WERE CRUEL DAYS OF SUDDEN WARS, SURPRISE ATTACKS---





A CENTURY PASSED. RUDDIFO AND MAGDA WERE NO MORE, BUT THEIR MAGICAL COTTAGE REMAINED, HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD. AND NOW WE SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT -- DVORAK'S TRAVELING CIRCUS, WENDING ITS WAY ACROSS THE FACT OF HUNGARY --



RECEIPTS ARE DWINDLING, EH, DVORAK? WHAT WE NEED ARE SOME NEW ATTRACTIONS!

I CAN'T AFFORD HIGH-PRICE ACTS. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO, MUCH AS I HATE IT!



I'VE GOT TO FIND CHEAP ATTRACTIONS. AND THAT MEANS **FREAKS**! I CAN'T STAND THEM--THERE'S SOMETHING IN ME THAT RESENTS THEM. BUT I'VE GOT TO HAVE AT LEAST SOME GOOD ONE.



TO FIND FREAKS, YOU SEARCH--YOU ASK QUESTIONS--AND FINALLY YOU'RE BOUND TO COME TO THE RIGHT SPOT--

YOU'RE A POOR MAN, MR. MALENKO--AND THAT DAUGHTER OF YOURS CAN NEVER MARRY OR WORK FOR A LIVING--JUST LOOK AT HER, YOU'LL BE SADDLED WITH HER FOR LIFE. BUT I CAN MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU--AND HER!



SHE'S STILL A MINOR--AS HER FATHER YOU CAN SIGN HER OVER TO ME. SHE'LL HAVE A GOOD LIFE--AND I'LL PAY YOU WELL.

ALL RIGHT--I GUESS IT'S FOR THE BEST.



THEN ANOTHER "FREAK"--ANTON VORJA--YOUR MOTHER IS SICKLY AND AGING--AND YOU CAN'T FIND EMPLOYMENT TO KEEP HER FROM STARVATION. SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ME AND SHE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE WELL--YOU TOO! WHAT DO YOU SAY?

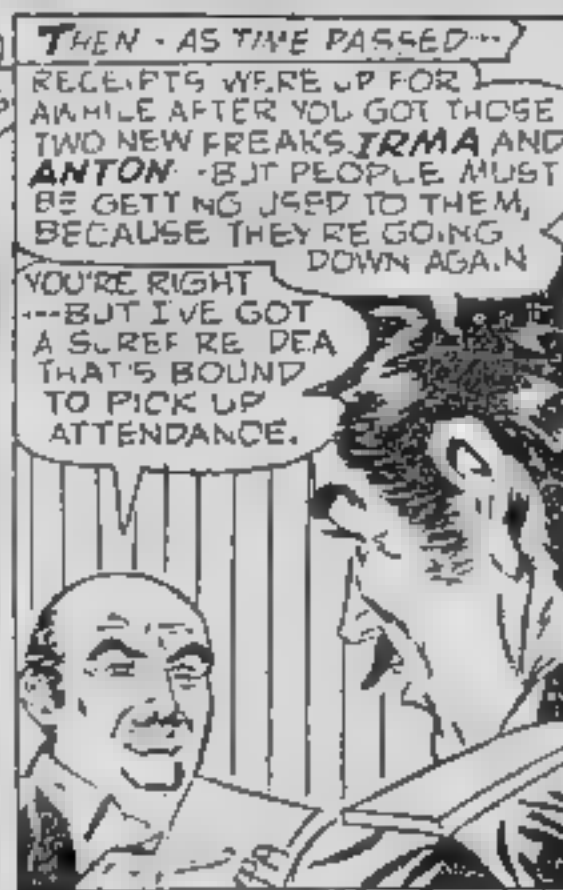
WHAT CAN I SAY? I'LL SIGN AND BE GLAD TO.



THE NEW ATTRACTIONS WERE POPULAR WITH THE PATRONS OF DVORAK'S TRAVELING CIRCUS--

JUST LOOK AT HER! THAT'S NOT A WOMAN--THAT'S A MOUNTAIN! HA-HA-HA! HA-HA-HA! HOW ABOUT HIM? I'LL BET HIS BONES CLACK!













THE BRIDGE...IT'S SOLID AGAIN! WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT SORT OF PLACE IS THIS?



I--I DON'T KNOW WE'D BETTER GO INSIDE THE COTTAGE AND REST-- BUT FIRST I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR OFFERING YOUR LIFE FOR MINE!



HOW ABOUT YOU WANTING TO DIE SO I COULD LIVE? IT SHOWS THAT WE DON'T REALLY HATE EACH OTHER--WE NEVER REALLY HATED EACH OTHER! INSTEAD--



THAT'S HOW I FEEL, TOO. BUT--BUT WE CAN'T BE IN LOVE. NOT TWO PEOPLE LIKE US. YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD SECRET DREAMS OF A HANDSOME LOVER--AND I'VE DREAMED OF A BEAUTIFUL SWEET-HEART--



OH, NO--NO! YOUR HAND, YOUR ARM AS YOU PASSED THROUGH THE DOOR, IRMA--LOOK AT THEM!



WHAT'S--HAPPENING?

ANTON--LOOK, LOOK!



AND WHERE THE FAT LADY AND THE HUMAN SKELETON HAD STOOD--

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE'RE--CHANGED!



YES CAN IT BE THAT FATE HAS BROKENT IS HERE-- INTO A SORCERER'S COTTAGE?

BUT THIS WAS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS--NOT WHEN TWO YOUNG PEOPLE FACED EACH OTHER, RADIANT HANDSOME AND IN LOVE! TWO PEOPLE MAGICALLY TRANSFORMED--WITH ETERNAL HAPPINESS BEFORE THEM!



THE END

HE'S HERE...THE MIGHTY MAN WHO DARTS THE IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S HERE...SMASHING OUT OF A VEIL OF MYSTERY AND CRASHING INTO DYNAMIC ACTION WITH ALL OF THE STRANGE POWERS OF BLACK MAGIC! MEET-

MAGICMAN!

STORY: ZEV ZIMMER
ART: PETE COSTANZA



AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF CHINESE RED MILITARY OFFICERS...

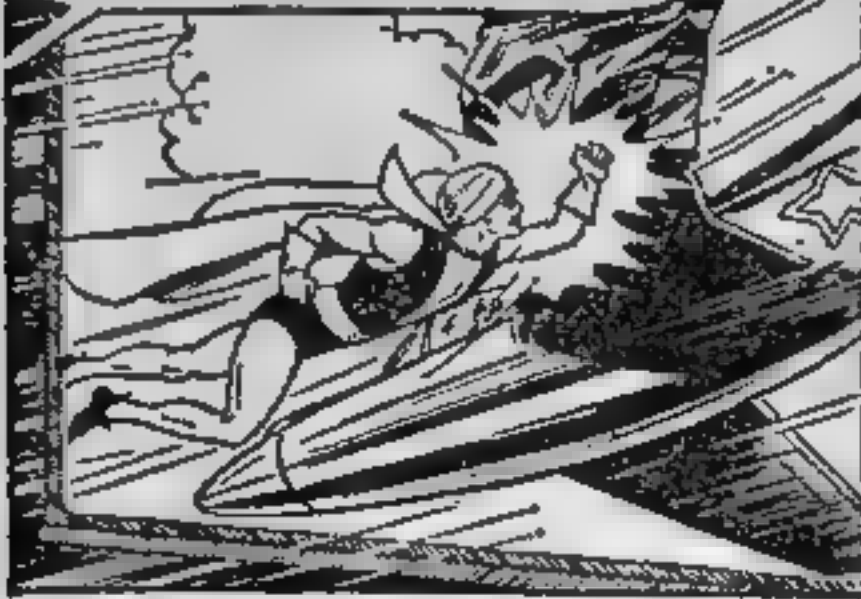
THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED TO DISCUSS AN UNEXPECTED AND FRIGHTENING CHALLENGE TO OUR MILITARY MIGHT. AND THAT CHALLENGE IS...
MAGICMAN!



OUR INTELLIGENCE HAS SECURED THESE PICTURES AND VOUCHES FOR THEIR AUTHENTICITY. AT FIRST, HE WAS ONLY A RUMOR, LAUGHED AT AND DISMISSED AS A TALE OF THE IMAGINATION. BUT LOOK...WOULD YOU CALL
THIS IMAGINATION?



HERE'S ANOTHER PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THAT THIS... THIS BEING ACTUALLY **EXISTS!** A BEING THAT FLIES THROUGH THE AIR LIKE THE SWIFTEST OF BIRDS... SO MIGHTY THAT HE DOESN'T HESITATE TO ATTACK A FIGHTING PLANE!



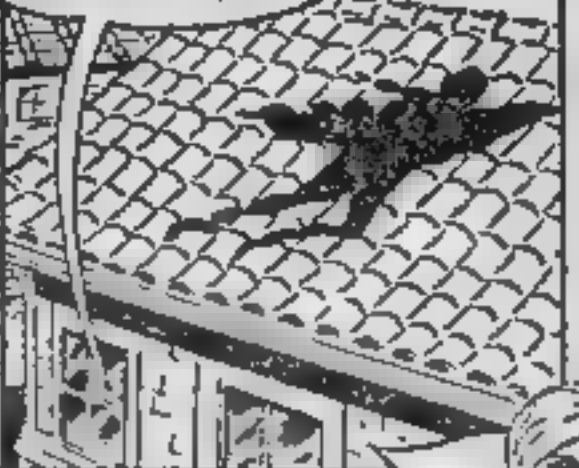
HIS POWERS SEEM TO GO BEYOND FLIGHT, BLAZING COURAGE AND TERRIFIC STRENGTH. A MILITARY PHOTOGRAPHER GOT THIS SHOT OF HIM IN A BATTLE WITH A TANK... AND WHAT HE'S USING IS **MAGIC!** AND IT'S WON THIS FLYING TERROR HIS NAME... **MAGICMAN!**



THIS ONE MAN HAS, SINGLEHANDED, DISRUPTED A LARGE PART OF OUR WAR EFFORT. HE HAS HARASSED THE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS IN VIET NAM, AIDED THE YANKEE-SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT TROOPS... AND NOBODY KNOWS WHEN OR WHERE HE WILL STRIKE NEXT!



WE MUST FIGURE OUT A COURSE OF ACTION AGAINST HIM. AND IT'S PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT **NOW**, WHEN WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A SECRET BASE IN VIET NAM WITH ENOUGH AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES TO WIN THE WAR FOR THE GUERRILLAS!



WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT HE NEVER LEARNS THE LOCATION OF THIS BASE -- ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE SOMETHING **ELSE** HIDDEN THERE!



NONSENSE! THOSE PHOTOS YOU SHOWED US ARE PROBABLY FAKES DREAMED UP BY YANKEE INTELLIGENCE. I SAY THAT YOUR **MAGICMAN** IS PROBABLY A FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION!



SORRY TO DISAGREE WITH YOU, THE NAME'S... **MAGICMAN!**



YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THOSE GUNS!



THIS IS THE WAY I LIKE IT...
MAN TO MAN!



YOU... I HEARD YOU MENTION A SECRET RED BASE IN VIETNAM! WHERE'S IT LOCATED?

I... WON'T TELL YOU! NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO...



YOU CAN'T WITHSTAND **MAGIC**...AND MY SPELLS ON YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME...**YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME...**

YOUR...YOUR EYES... CAN'T HELP MYSELF! THE BASE...IT'S IN THE JUNGLE, 10 MILES NORTHWEST... OF VILLAGE OF KARAWA... PROVINCE OF LORUTU...



THANKS, FELLA...NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO WORK ON!



YOU READER...LET'S TALK! YOU MUST BE CURIOUS ABOUT HOW I CAME TO BE...WELL...WHAT I AM, **MAGICMAN!** IT'S KIND OF AN INTERESTING STORY...MIND IF I TELL YOU?



"THIS GOES PRETTY FAR BACK, BUT TELL ME...DID YOU EVER HEAR OF **CAGLIOSTRO**? THAT WOULD BE THE COUNT ALESSANDRO CAGLIOSTRO, THE GREAT ITALIAN ALCHEMIST WHO WAS BORN IN 1743. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HE WAS MY FATHER!"

YOU CAN DO IT, FATHER. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!

THIS TIME I MAY FIND IT...THE SECRET OF TURNING BASE METALS INTO GOLD!



"EARLY I LEARNED MY FATHER'S GREAT MAGICAL POWERS. HE WAS A MIGHTY SORCERER...AND HE SOLD LOVE PHILTRES, MIXTURES FOR MAKING UGLY WOMEN BEAUTIFUL..."

TEN PIECES OF GOLD, JUST FOR THIS LIQUID? HOW DO I KNOW THAT IT IS REALLY MAGICAL? I'D BETTER TRY IT FIRST.



YOU'VE DONE IT, CAGLIOSTRO. YOU'VE DONE IT!

NATURALLY. MY MAGIC IS GREAT!



"THEN, THERE WERE THE ELIXIRS OF YOUTH..."

YOU...YOU SAY THIS POTION WILL MAKE ME YOUNG AGAIN?

TRY IT AND SEE.

IT...IT WORKED!



"BUT HOW TO ESCAPE? I WAS TERRORIZED AS THE SOLDIER'S BIG HAND REACHED FOR ME. 'GET AWAY GET AWAY,' MY MIND AGONIZED... BUT HOW?"



"I DON'T KNOW HOW I DID IT, BUT..."

HE'S G-GONE!

POUR!



"BUT EVEN IF I DIDN'T USE MY MAGIC I LEARNED THAT I WASN'T LIKE OTHER MEN. THE YEARS CAME AND WENT... OTHER MEN GREW OLD AND DIED... BUT I LIVED ON..."

AH NOW, I WISH I WAS AS YOUNG AS YOU...

IF ONLY HE KNEW THE TRUTH... THAT I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE HIS FATHER!



"IT WAS THINGS LIKE THESE THAT CAUSED HIS ARREST FOR WITCHCRAFT IN 1789..."

TAKE THE BOY, TOO. LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...

QUICK, BOY... ESCAPE!



"IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT I, TOO, POSSESSED MAGICAL POWERS... THAT I HAD INHERITED THEM FROM MY FATHER! BUT I HATED THE VERY IDEA OF USING THEM, FOR THEY SPELLED TROUBLE. I EVEN PREFERRED POVERTY..."

THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS A MAGICIAN... I'LL NEVER WORK MAGIC!



"FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY I WENT WORKING AT MANY OCCUPATIONS..."

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO KNOW THIS BUSINESS. ISN'T THERE AN OLDER MAN AROUND?





UH...THANK YOU, LADIES AND...I MEAN, GENTLEMEN! M-MY NEXT TRICK WILL B-BE TO SAW GERBANT KILKENNY IN HALF...

OKAY... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!



BRRPP! BRRPP!



YEE-OWWW! MY MAGIC BACKFIRED AGAIN!



I'M TELLING YOU I DON'T KNOW **HOW** IT HAPPENED, AL! I ...I LEARNED THOSE TRICKS THROUGH A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE...

WELL, THEY SURE WERE GREAT, TOM. I GOTTA STAND GUARD NOW OUTSIDE THE SENATOR'S QUARTERS. REMEMBER, YOU RELIEVE ME AT 5 A.M. ...DON'T BE LATE.



"BUT WHEN I CAME TO RELIEVE AL..."

AL! WHAT...



HE'S D-DEAD... DEAD! SOME RAT... KILLED HIM...



"SENATOR LORING WAS GONE... KIDNAPPED..."

IT'S GOT TO BE THE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY MANAGED IT, BUT THEY D.D... AND THERE'S NO TRACE OF SENATOR LORING. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I'LL GET EVEN FOR YOU, AL.
I---I SWEAR IT---I'LL GET
EVEN! I'LL TEACH THOSE
SKULKING RATS IF IT'S THE
LAST THING I DO!



BUT HOW WOULD I GET
EVEN-- WHAT COULD I
DO? JUST ONE GUY LIKE
ANY OTHER---**WAIT!** I'M
NOT LIKE ANY OTHER.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING
NOBODY ELSE HAS **MAGICAL
POWERS!** I-- I COULD
USE THEM!



"**FAR INTO THE NIGHT I PLANNED
IT---**"

IT'S MORE THAN JUST
GETTING EVEN FOR AL. IT'S
GETTING SENATOR LORNG
BACK FOR ALL AMERICA--
IT'S FOR OUR WAR EFFORT
AGAINST THE REDS!



A WAR'S HALF WON WHEN YOU
CAN STRIKE FEAR INTO YOUR
OPPONENT-- AND I'VE GOT TO
STRIKE THAT FEAR! JUST PLAIN
TOM CARGILL CAN'T DO IT-- BUT
SOME MYSTERIOUS AVEENGER
WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS WHO
COULD HIT OUT OF NOWHERE
WITH LIGHTNING FORCE **COULD!**

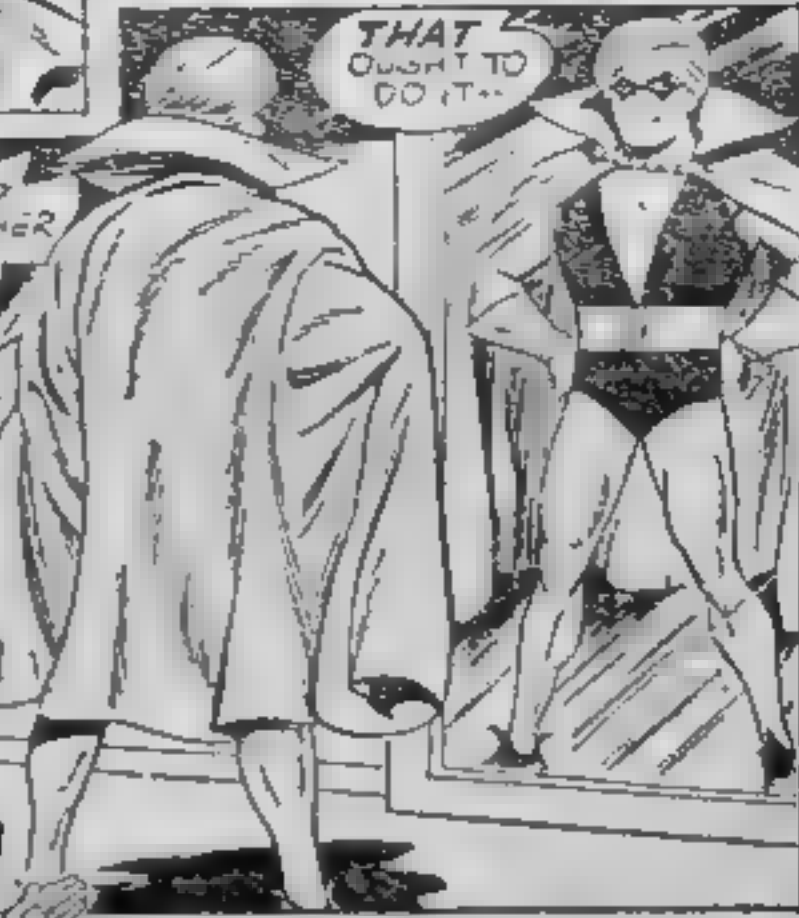


I'LL DO THAT--
AS **MAGIC-
MAN!**

"I NEEDED A
COSTUME AND
I PUT IT TOGETHER
FROM THE
THEATRICAL
SUPPLIES
YOU'LL FIND
IN EVERY
ARMY POST--"



**THAT
OUGHT TO
DO IT--**



--AND NOW
MAGICMAN
HITS THE VENGEANCE
TRAIL!



"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I
WENT INTO MID-AIR COMBAT--"

A RED WHIRLY-
BIRD--ATTACKING
A GOVERNMENT
COLUMN! **HERE
GOES!**





THIS IS THE SORT OF
THING I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR!



"THEN THERE WAS THIS
SORT OF THING..."

GUERRILLAS... A
BIG PARTY OF THEM.
I'VE GOT TO HIT
THEM **HARD**...



"IN THE HILLS ABOVE WAS A
DAMMED-UP LAKE. THAT LOOKED
PRETTY GOOD TO ME..."

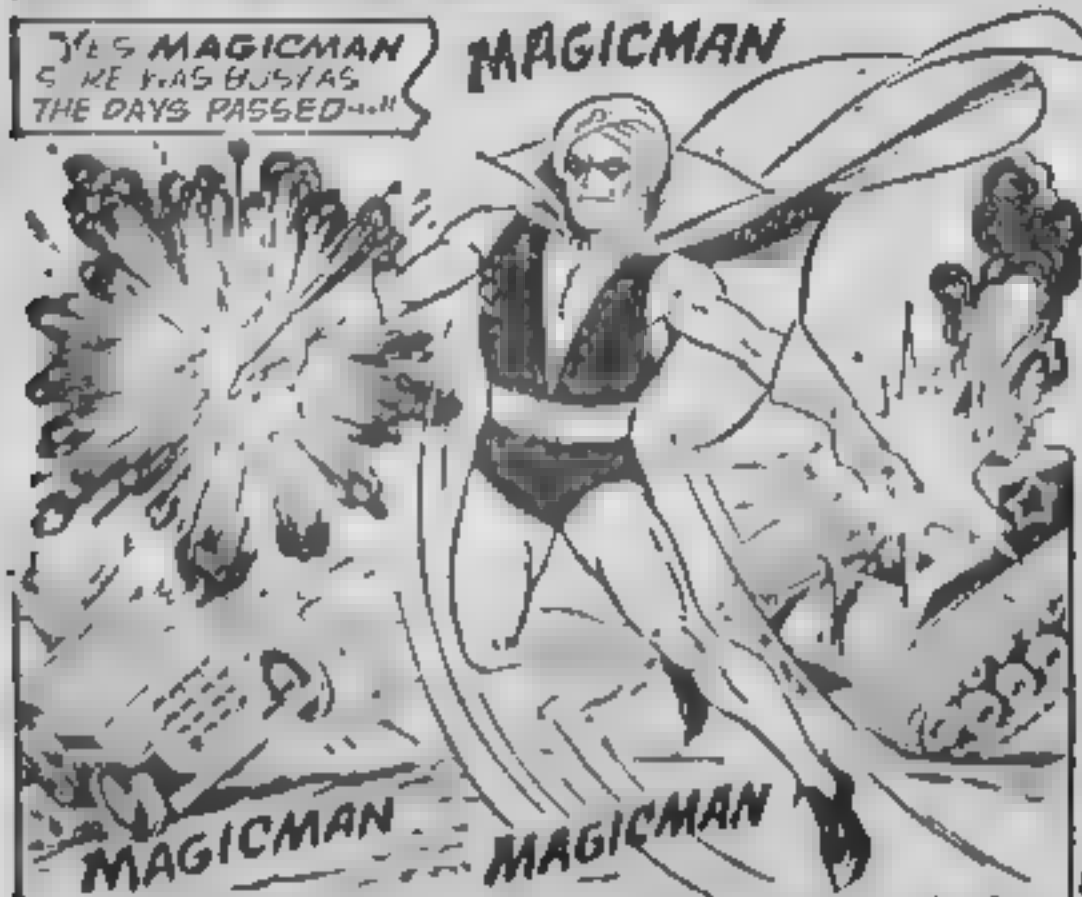
THAT TREE
LOOKS BIG ENOUGH
FOR THE JOB...
AND THERE SHE
GOES!



BROKE
THE DAM,
JUST AS I
FIGURED!



SCRATCH
ONE GUERRILLA
COLUMN!



YES MAGICMAN
SHE WAS BUSY AS
THE DAYS PASSED...

MAGICMAN

MAGICMAN

MAGICMAN

BUT NEVER A CLUE CO. D I FIND TO
THE MISSING SENATOR LORING. NOT
UNTIL I CORNERED A GUERRILLA LEADER
WHO WAS IN THE KNOW...

YOU CAN'T STAND **MAGIC**
...AND MY SPELLS ON YOU
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME
...YOU'RE GOING TO
TELL ME... WHERE'S
SENATOR LORING?

DON'T...
KNOW... THE JOB
...WAS ENGINEERED
...BY THE RED CHINESE
...THEY'RE GOT HIM
HIDDEN AT SOME
SECRET BASE IN
VIET NAM.

"THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO GO RIGHT TO THE SOURCE...RED CHINESE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, AS YOU SAW WHEN THIS STORY BEGAN."



THE NAME'S MAGICMAN!

"AND THAT'S HOW I LEARNED"

THE BASE. IT'S IN THE JUNGLE, 10 MILES NORTHWEST OF VILLAGE OF KARAWA - PROVINCE OF LORUTU...



THANKS, FELLA... NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO WORK ON!



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE? YOU BETRAYED THE LOCATION OF THE BASE!

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. WHO CAN FIGHT MAGIC? BUT NOW THAT WE KNOW WHERE HE'S HEADED FOR, WE CAN TURN LOOSE OUR ENTIRE STRENGTH ON HIM!

AND SO...

CALLING BASE A03! MAGICMAN HEADED YOUR WAY! MARSHAL ALL FORCES...AND DESTROY HIM!

AS MAGICMAN NEARED THE SECRET BASE...

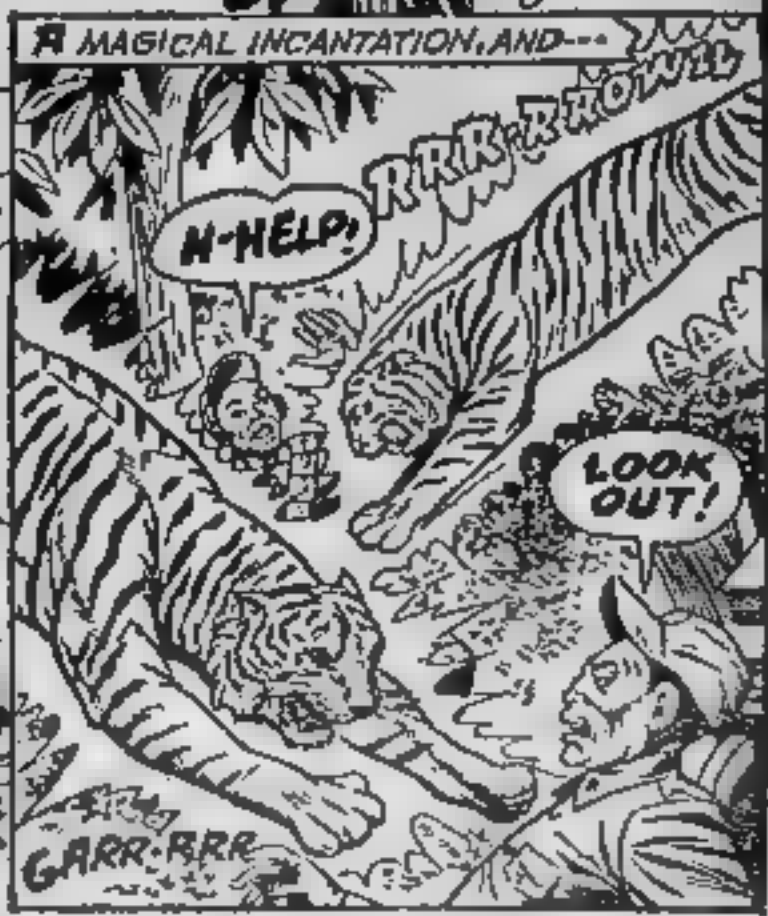
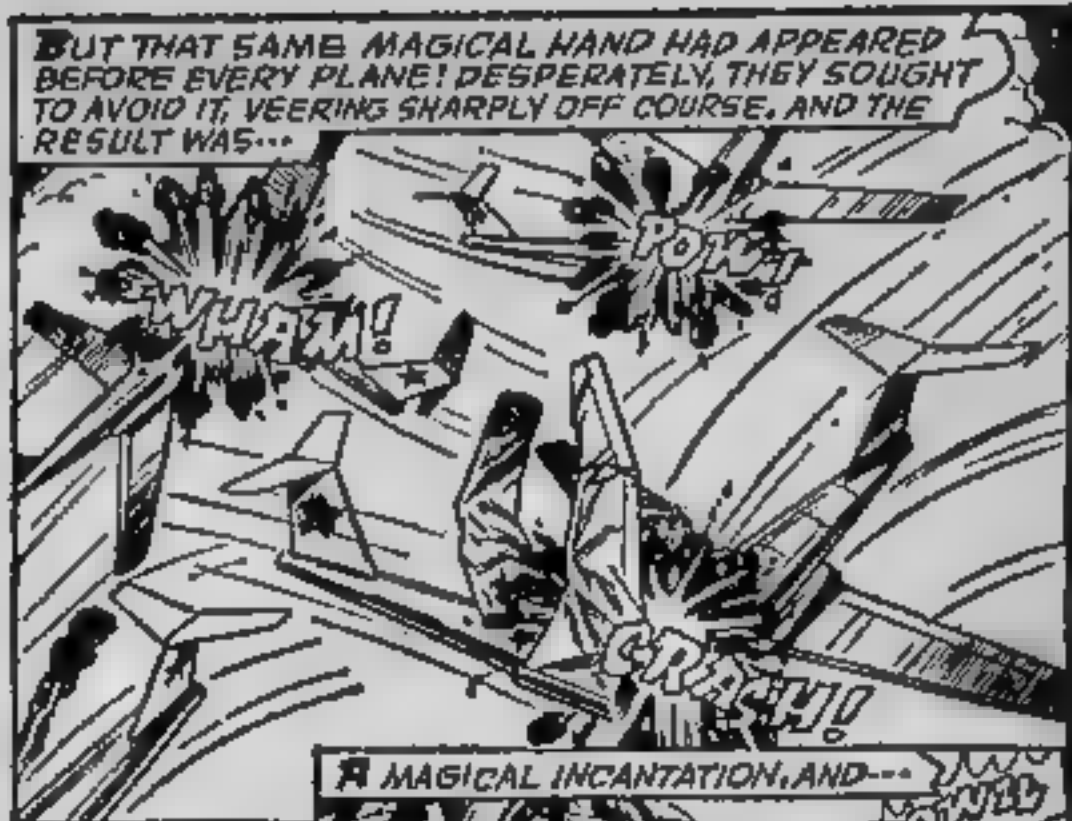


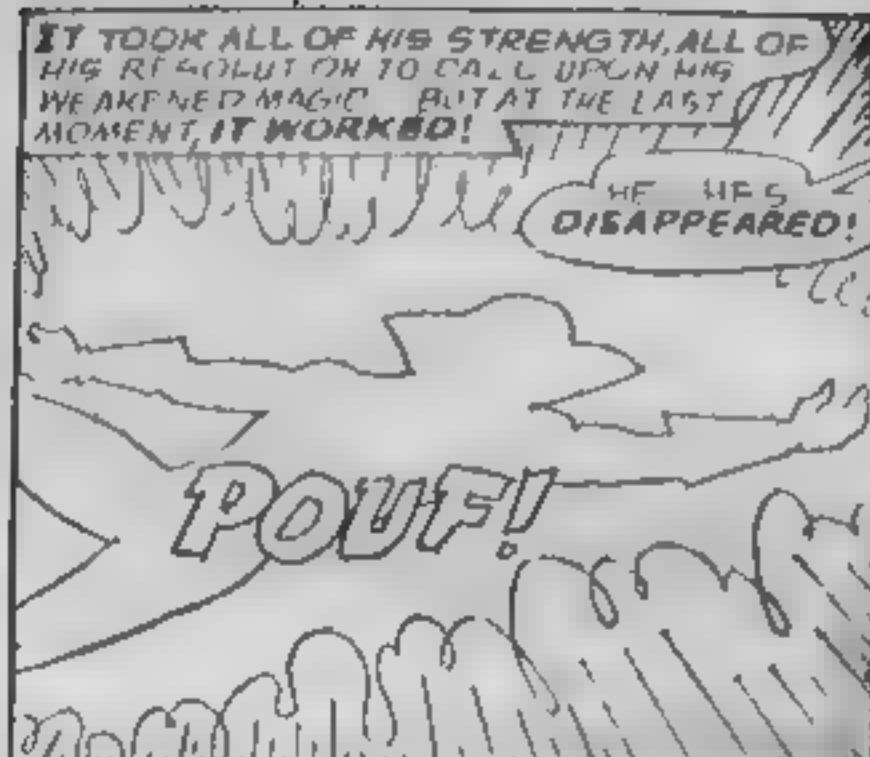
OH-OH...RED PLANES AND A SWARM OF THEM. GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST!

WHERE'S HE GONE TO? ONE SECOND HE WAS COMING TOWARDS US, AND NEXT SECOND...POUF! DISAPPEARED!

YES...AND THAT CLOUD WASN'T THERE A MOMENT AGO!









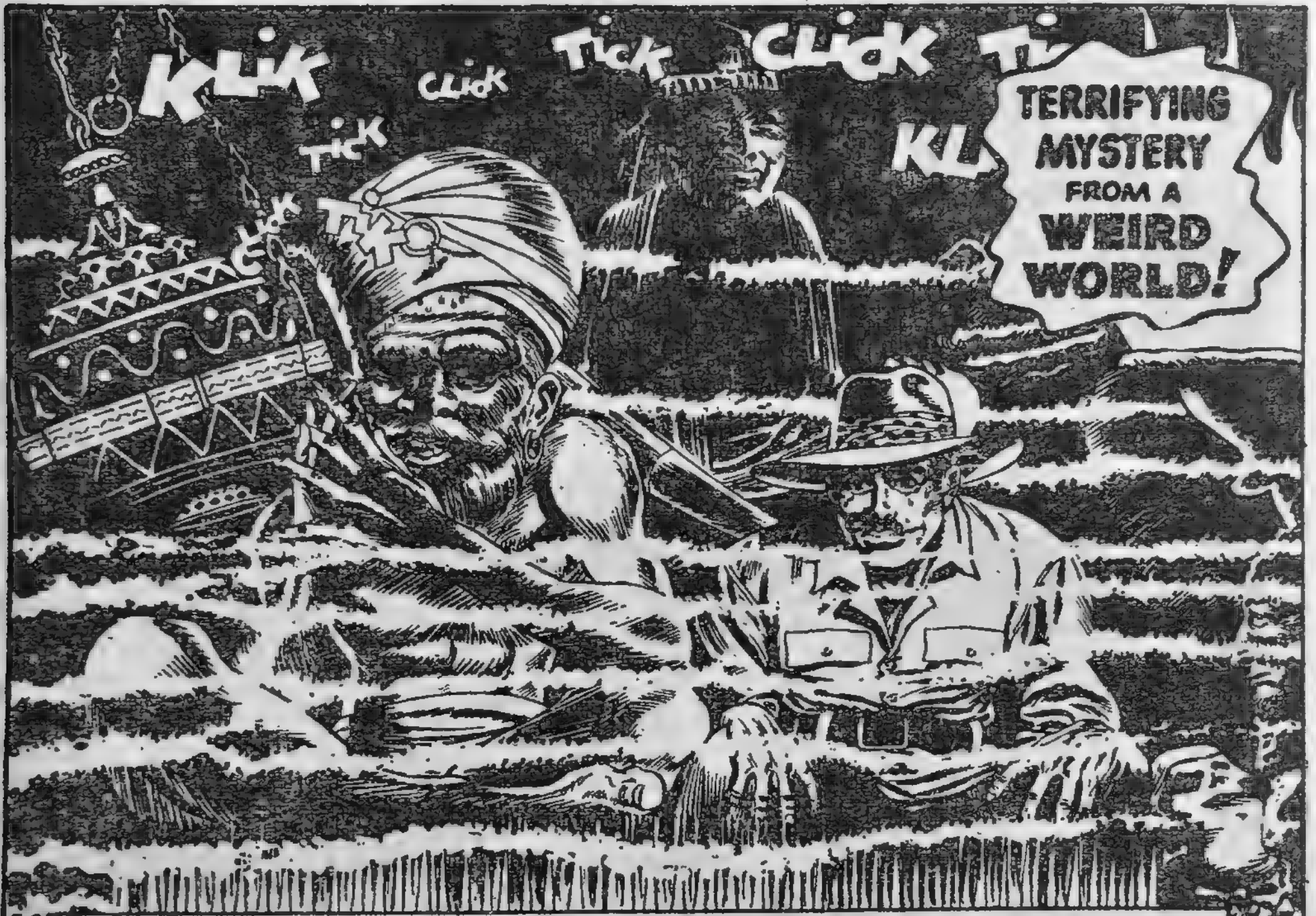
A BREATHLESS PAUSE...AND THE FLAMING HUT DIVED DOWNWARDS. IT HIT THE AMMUNITION DUMP SQUARE...BLOWING UP THE ENTIRE BASE...



AS FOR MAGICMAN AND SENATOR...OR NG YOU'D FIGURE THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO BITS...MAYBE...BUT WHAT WERE THESE FIGURES, TAKING SHAPE AGAIN IN THE AIR...?



MIND OVER MATTER



**TERRIFYING
MYSTERY
FROM A
WEIRD
WORLD!**

FOR LONG MONTHS NONE OF GORDON LANGLEY'S FRIENDS KNEW WHERE HE WAS...
AND THE LAST PLACE IN THE WORLD THEY WOULD HAVE LOOKED FOR HIM WAS IN
A TEMPLE DEEP IN THE INTERIOR OF MYSTERIOUS INDIA!

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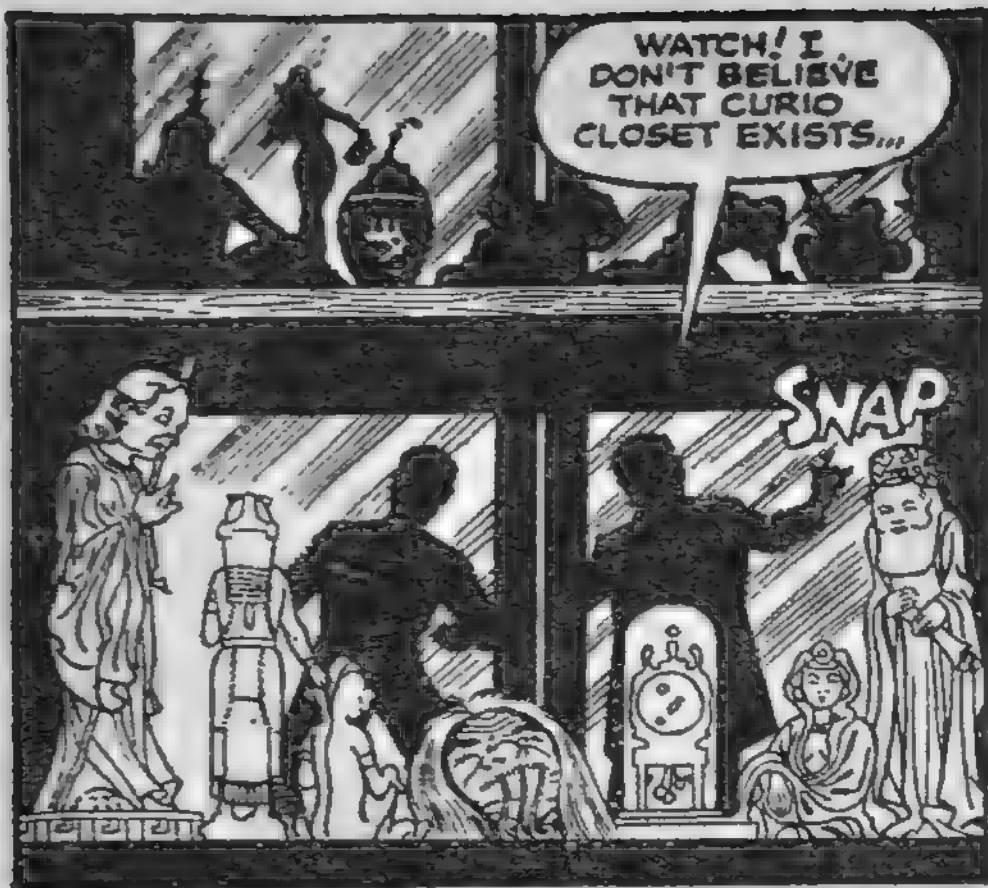
BUT ONE DAY GORDON LANGLEY RETURNED TO
WHAT WE CALL "CIVILIZATION"...

GORDON! COME IN, COME IN!
WHERE IN BLAZES HAVE
YOU BEEN HIBERNATING
ALL THESE MONTHS?

I'VE BEEN IN
INDIA, ALLEN... BUT
I'VE SCARCELY BEEN
HIBERNATING!

I LIVED WITH A SECT OF
YOGIS WHO INITIATED ME
INTO THEIR SECRETS... AND
TAUGHT ME THE POWER OF
MAKING OBJECTS VANISH
AT WILL!









THIS IS **SHANE O'SHEA** SOUNDING OFF, FOLKS. WITH A QUESTION: WERE YOU JULIUS CAESAR IN A PREVIOUS EXISTENCE... OR SIMPLE SIMON? IT'S ALL A MATTER OF **REINCARNATION**, AS YOU'LL SEE IN THIS THRILL STORY I DREAMED UP FOR YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IN IT... BUT IF IT DOESN'T GIVE YOU A KING-SIZE CHARGE I'M GONNA BE A PRETTY SAD COOKIE. AND BY THE WAY... JUST LOOK WHO **DREW** THE STORY!



HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME **OGDEN WHITNEY**! I GO ALL OUT ON THIS ANCIENT MYSTERY STUFF. HOPE YOU'LL LIKE THE WAY I HANDLED THIS ONE!

UNDERNEATH the QUIETEST EXTERIOR!

I'VE BEEN HEARING A LOT OF HUSH-HUSH TALK ABOUT THIS NEW EXPEDITION OF YOURS, GEORGE. WHAT'S THE LOW-DOWN... OR IS IT TOO SECRET FOR EVEN **ME** TO KNOW?

WHY SHOULD I KEEP SECRETS FROM ANOTHER CURATOR HERE TOM? THE FACT IS, I'M GOING AFTER **THE LOST TOMB OF THE PHARAOH RAMOJES**!



"NEVER HEARD OF HIM, YOU SAY? WELL, HE GOES A LONG WAY BACK. HE WAS CRUEL, DESTRUCTIVE... AND WAS EVEN RUMORED TO POSSESS SUPERNATURAL POWERS! HE WORKED MAGIC WITH HIS HANDS, IT WAS SAID..."



THUS SHALL PERISH ALL ENEMES OF RAMOJES!



"HE WAS EVIL, VINDICTIVE... HIS OWN SUBJECTS HATED HIM! IN A SURPRISE REVOLT THEY SEIZED HIM, CHAINING HIS HANDS SO HE COULDN'T WORK HIS TERRIBLE MAGIC..."

IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THE PEOPLE THAT YOU BE PUT TO DEATH IMMEDIATELY!

SOMEDAY THESE CHAINS SHALL BE SEVERED AND MY MAGIC GIVEN FREE REIN ONCE MORE! THEN I SHALL HAVE **REVENGE** UPON THIS LAND!

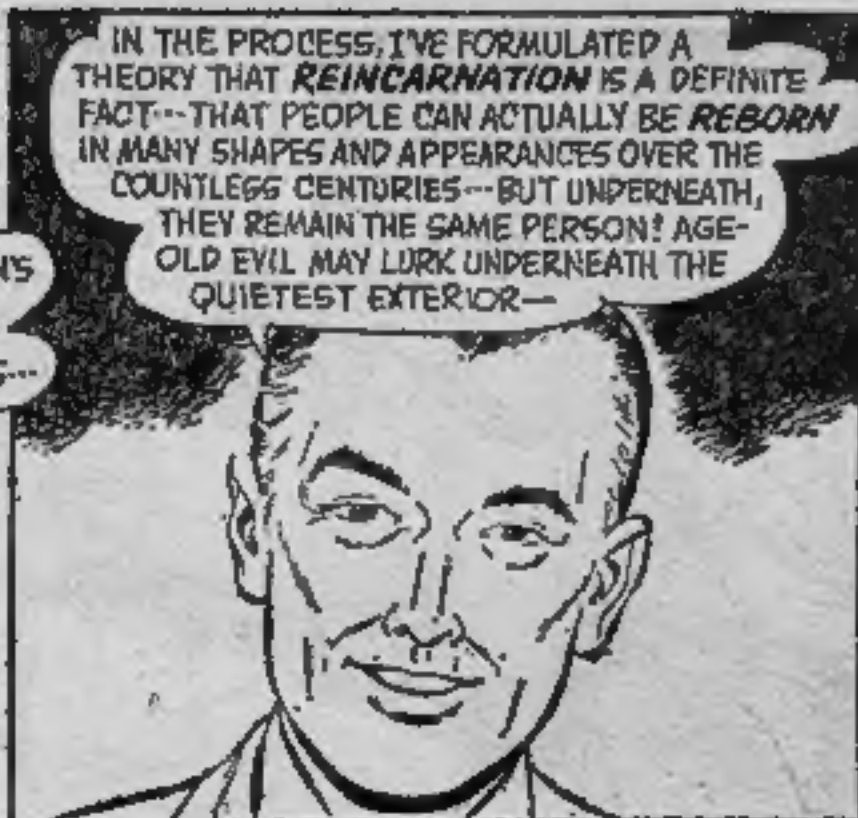




"BUT THE SANDS BURIED HIM AND THE SLOW DRIFT OF HISTORY--AND THERE ARE FEW TODAY WHO EVEN KNOW THAT HE EXISTED--"

BUT NOW I'VE GOTTEN A LEAD TO THE LOCATION OF HIS TOMB! YESSIR, TOM, THERE'S NOTHING AS EXCITING AS EGYPTOLOGY--

OH, I DON'T KNOW. ME, I'M IN CHARGE OF **GENEALOGY** HERE, AND I THINK IT'S FASCINATING--TRACING A PERSON'S ANCESTRY BACK TO HIS EARLIEST FORBEARS--



IN THE PROCESS, I'VE FORMULATED A THEORY THAT **REINCARNATION** IS A DEFINITE FACT--THAT PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY BE **REBORN** IN MANY SHAPES AND APPEARANCES OVER THE COUNTLESS CENTURIES--BUT UNDERNEATH, THEY REMAIN THE SAME PERSON! AGE-OLD EVIL MAY LURK UNDERNEATH THE QUIETEST EXTERIOR--



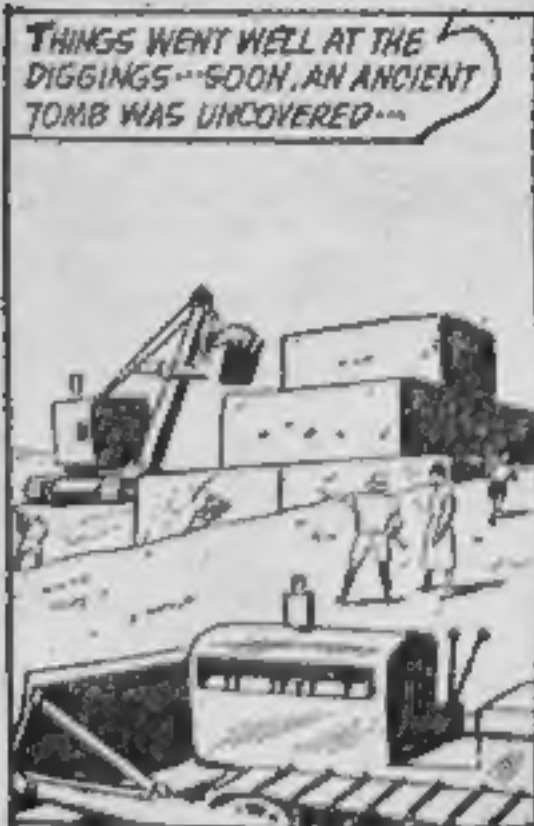
FOR INSTANCE, TAKE THAT SECRETARY OF YOURS--

WHO, **EDWARD RAMSEN**? TOM, IF HE'S THE REINCARNATION OF ANYTHING, IT'S A JELLYFISH! HE'S COMING ALONG BECAUSE I NEED A SECRETARY ON THE EXPEDITION--AND I ONLY HOPE HE DOESN'T SEE A FROG AND DROP DEAD OF FRIGHT!



ON THE TRIP OVER TO EGYPT-- PLEASE, SIR, ALL THE MEN IN THE EXPEDITION ARE PICKING ON ME! THEY--THEY CALL ME **MISS NELLY**--AND THEY J-JUMP OUT AT ME FROM DARK PLACES AND YELL **BOO**--

OH, TRY BEING A MAN FOR ONCE-- THEN MAYBE THEY'D LET YOU ALONE! I ONLY WISH MY FRIEND TOM COULD SEE YOU-- HE'D KNOW YOU MUST BE DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM A **SHEEP**!



THINGS WENT WELL AT THE DIGGINGS--SOON, AN ANCIENT TOMB WAS UNCOVERED--



THEY BROKE THE SEALS, MADE THEIR ENTRANCE. BUT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT, **EDWARD RAMSEN** ACTED STRANGELY--

THIS IS THE ROYAL CORRIDOR--WE'LL FIND THE MUMMY OF **RAMOUES** IN THIS DIRECTION!

NO, NOT THERE. **HERE**--

THIS NARROW PASSAGE--THIS WAY--



FALTERINGLY, **EDWARD** PULLED AT THE CURATOR'S SLEEVE--

HE'S IN HERE --I KNOW IT --PLEASE--

LISTEN, **MISS NELLY**, I KEEP TELLING YOU--A PHARAOH WAS ALWAYS BURIED WITH HONOR, IN THE MAIN AND MORE BEAUTIFUL PORTION OF THE TOMB--THESE SIDE CHAMBERS WERE MERELY FOR STORAGE! GO AHEAD IN THERE IF YOU WANT--ME, I'M GOING AFTER **RAMOUES**!



THE CURATOR HAD FORGOTTEN ONE IMPORTANT THING... THAT THIS WAS A PHARAOH WHO HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY HIS OWN SUBJECTS, WHO HAD DIED IN DISGRACE! IN A REMOTE LITTLE CHAMBER...

THEY DIDN'T... MUMMIFY HIM. JUST... CHAINED HIS BODY TO THAT POLE WITH THE FETTERS THAT BOUND... HIS HANDS...



THE CHAINS... AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES, THEY PART LIKE DUST IN MY HANDS...

THROUGH THE CHAMBER, A HOLLOW, AGE-OLD VOICE RESOUNDED...

SOMEDAY... THESE CHAINS... SHALL BE SEVERED... AND MY MAGIC GIVEN... FREE REIN ONCE MORE...



BUT THERE WAS MORE THAN MAGIC HERE! A STRANGE CHANGE SEEMED TO COME OVER EDWARD RAMSEN NOW. HIS BROWS GREW CRAGGIER, HIS JAW JUTTED...

WHAT'S... HAPPENING TO ME...?



GOT TO... GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S... WORK FOR ME TO DO!



CRAFTILY, HE CREEPT FROM THE TOMB... BUT WHAT EMERGED WASN'T EDWARD RAMSEN OF THE 20TH CENTURY! INSTEAD... AMAZINGLY...

AND THE WORK IS... REVENGE!





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